

Hafa Adai!

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4 new COVID-19 cases in Guam

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Another day and four new cases of COVID-19 have tested positive in neighboring Guam, as the U.S. territory continues to grapple against an outbreak of the coronavirus.

TO THE POINT

- With 4 new positives, Guam now has 12 COVID-19 cases
- 7pm to 6am curfew for minors in CNMI
- Interisland travelers must self-quarantine for 14 days

The Guam Joint Information Center said that four tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday. The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 16 individuals suspected of having the virus. Twelve tested negative; for were positive.

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CPA to limit flights starting March 27

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

With the drastic decline in international flights, the Commonwealth Ports Authority will limit aircraft landing/flight operations at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to the hours between 8am and 12pm daily, effective March

27, except for emergencies and COVID-19-related flight operations.

In a memorandum yesterday to the CPA board's airport operating committee, stakeholders, and airlines, CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said that CPA will also limit aircraft landing/flight opera-

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Kilili: Coronavirus bill passes

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Workers in the Marianas will get paid sick leave for themselves or to care for a family member, including children at home because of school closures. The Commonwealth will receive more Medicaid money to treat the ill. And more food aid will be available to help

Marianas households that lose income due to lay-offs or hours reduction.

» **Paid sick leave, Medicaid increase, food aid for Marianas**

These come soon after President Trump signed into law the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, shortly after the

Republican-led Senate acted on the bill on Wednesday. The

See **KILILI** on **Page 4**

Good news, bad news on virus front

By DAVID RISING, NICK PERRY
and KEN MORITSUGU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING (AP)—Thursday was a day of contrasts on the front lines of the battle against the new coronavirus. In a sign of hope, the Chinese city of Wuhan reported no new homegrown infections, but in a stark warning for the

world, Italy appeared set to surpass China's death toll from the virus.

The two milestones were a dramatic illustration of how much the global outbreak has pivoted toward Europe and the United States. They also showed how the arc of contagion can vary in different nations, as Italy with 60 million

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CALM BEFORE THE STORM

Fishermen head out to sail Sunday, the day before CNMI was placed under a state of public health emergency and a continued state of significant emergency following the confirmed positive cases in Guam.

IVA MAURIN

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United Airlines makes further adjustments to its Guam flight schedules.

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President Donald Trump has invoked his emergency powers to fight the coronavirus.

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Africa should "prepare for the worst" as the coronavirus begins to spread locally.

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Local

Mobil's 40-year lease of CPA property expiring next year

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is weighing whether to issue a request for proposals or to accept the request of Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. to extend its expiring 40-year lease of CPA's property at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Mobil's 40-year lease will expire in September next year

and is asking for an extension of its current lease, or a new lease. That doesn't necessarily mean that Mobil is requesting for a new 40-year lease at once. Barrie C. Toves, the CPA board's Airport Facilities Committee chairman, said that CPA normally signs a lease for 15 years, with options for five-year extensions that add up to 40 years.

"But no more than 40 years, capped by CPA's enabling

» **CPA still studying whether to grant another 40-year lease or do an RFPs**

[law]," Toves said.

In an interview last week, Toves said they had indicated in their meeting agenda last Thursday to continue discussions about the lease because

Mobil came with a representative to speak to the committee during last month's committee meeting.

Toves said Mobil had a PowerPoint presentation explaining how they started out on Saipan and then building the infrastructure at the Saipan airport to provide aviation fuel to the airlines.

"They are getting close to closing out their 40-year limit on the term of the lease and

they're requesting for CPA's consideration to extend the lease," he said.

During that meeting, Toves said, they made it very clear that a law actually prohibits CPA from extending new leases when it expires after 40 years.

Toves said they asked the CPA management to go back to the drawing board and see how they can address this because Mobil has invested a lot of money and provided service to the aviation industry.

"They are planning to...make some more improvement on their...facilities," Toves said.

He said Mobil could also re-responding if CPA decides to do an RFP.

Toves said his committee is cautious about entertaining requests for the renewal of the lease when they expire after 40 years.

"We don't want to be in violation of our own statute," he said, explaining that they asked their legal counsel and their executive director, Christopher S. Tenorio, to look into the issue and see how to entertain Mobil's request.

"If not and if we are required to pursue an RFP, that would be the route that we would turn," he said.

Toves said Mobil has told CPA of its plan to expand its facilities but, in order for them to do that, they want to secure an extension of their current lease, or acquire a new lease. He said Mobil has active contracts with the airline industry

so they want to "put the [pieces of the] puzzle together."

"The problem there is that our hands are tied when it comes to the prohibition clause of the enabling act for the 40-year limit," Toves said.

He said they want to retain the issue at the committee level for further discussion and they want their legal counsel to discuss it with them during an executive session because there are also some sensitive matters that he cannot disclose at this moment.

Toves said CPA's normal practice is, if they RFP out a certain lease, the first option would be for 15 years. After 15 years, there could be many increments of five-

year extensions, or sometimes it could be 10-year extensions up to the maximum 40 years.

Toves said they will probably be entertaining Mobil's request were it not for the Enabling Act that prohibit CPA from going past 40 years. "But we need to clarify this matter with our legal counsel during the board meeting and, from there, we will decide whether to entertain the request for a new lease, or we will go back to the drawing board and do an RFP," he said.

When the lease expires, Mobil will have to pack up and remove those infrastructures in their facilities and that's something that CPA is concerned about, Toves said.

"We don't want to interrupt their supply of aviation fuel. So that could be something that we can continue to talk about," he said.



Toves

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3rd specimen found negative

A third specimen that the CNMI sent to the Guam Public Health laboratory for COVID-19 testing last March 13 by has turned out negative.

Separately, in a statement from the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. and the Office of the Governor yesterday, it encouraged people to stay home to slow down the spread of the virus.

A day after Guam confirmed three cases of COVID-19 last March 15, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed Executive Order 20-04 declaring the CNMI under the State of Significant Emergency and a State of Public Health Emergency. Torres directed the community to practice social distancing (at least six feet), avoid activities that will have over 50 people, two weeks of government shutdown, and travel ban unless for health reasons. According to Subroto Ben-

erji, CHCC chief operating officer, the virus stays alive between three to six days and by having people not interact as they normally do—such as going to restaurants, stores, churches, etc.—this will allow the virus to get out of the transmittal mode.

"Our actions today can determine how long this will last," said Esther Muña, CHCC chief executive officer. In addition, Muña stated that people can always say that the novel coronavirus crisis can end in July, "but if people aren't staying home or going into self-quarantine, then it could take longer for this virus to go away."

"It is extremely important to start practicing social distancing to avoid close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus and passing it on," she added. (*Justine Nauta*)

NWS warns of a drought period in the CNMI

The National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, issued yesterday an advisory that warns of moderate to severe drought that will soon occur across much of Micronesia.

"A drier than normal trade-wind pattern has persisted

across much of Micronesia the past few months. Although the synoptic pattern has been typical for this time of year and ENSO neutral conditions prevail, rainfall has been inadequate for many islands," the advisory states.

A large factor in the drier than normal conditions is a persistent area of anomalously warm water near the dateline the past several months, NWS said. This warmer than normal water has encouraged convection near the dateline and

suppressed convection farther west over much of Micronesia, especially far western Micronesia.

The following drought classifications were a collaboration between the U.S. Drought Monitor team, regional National Weather Service offices and local experts/residents:

■ Severe short-term drought on Saipan, Tinian, and the northern CNMI;

■ Moderate short-term

drought in Guam and on Rota.

According to the NWS advisory, shallow wells will be drying up or pumping salty or brackish water. Water catchment tanks will be low or empty and crops will be stressed. On the most impacted islands, coconuts will have little to no water or juice inside. Crops will be inedible and deep wells will be dry or nearly dry. On larger islands, grass fires will start easily and spread quickly

when trade winds are elevated.

NWS said that this is an abbreviated statement and will be updated on March 26, with a quantitative analysis of regional rainfall.

The office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management advises the public to take all necessary precautionary measures at this time. All outdoor burning activity is not recommended and should be delayed. **(PR)**

Ada: Treat this as if we have a COVID-19 case already

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said the Public School System is currently in the mindset of making decisions and plans like there is already a COVID-19 outbreak in the CNMI.

Ada said this following a special board meeting last Tuesday where he and his team presented a COVID-19 contingency plan to the Board of Education. He said the plan was created with the help of PSS principals and vice principals.

"I have directed the entire team to have a mindset of 'treat this as if we have at least one case of COVID-19 on island,'" he said.

Part of the contingency plan was suspending classes up until March 31 to give students and PSS staff who recently went off island time to self-quarantine in case they were infected.

A total of 279 students and teachers went off-island business trips from Feb. 27 to

March 15, 2020.

"Majority of these travelers came from Guam," Ada said. There are now 12 positive coronavirus cases in Guam.

Ada has asked these students and teachers to inform their school administration about their health status. School administrators will then coordinate with the Public Health and Emergency Preparation team if any of the students or teachers have COVID-19-like symptoms such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath, which may occur two to 14 days after exposure.

"We agreed to [resume classes on] March 31. However, this may change as well because COVID-19 information changes every day. In the event that we do have the virus on island, we will make another announcement," he said.

Also part of the contingency plan is distance education but Ada asked the BOE to give his team more time or until March

30 to explore more online learning resources.

He said PSS has students, especially those in the special education program, that require one-on-one accommodations. "It may require bus transportation so we can bring these students to the sites where the equipment and the resources are," he said.

Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan, the associate commissioner for Student Support Services, said that PSS-Instruction Technology director Dr. Bobby Cruz and distance education program manager Lorraine Catienza are convening a group of e-teachers to look at the possibility of online learning for all PSS students.

"We need to have the proper infrastructure to do this equitably and to adhere to privacy and security standards," she said, adding that some students may not have the required devices or internet service at home. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

PSS looks into implementing distance education

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said he and his team are working to come up with the most equitable way to implement distance education in light of the COVID-19 situation in the CNMI.

According to Ada, PSS is looking at transitioning to distance education for the remainder of the school year but that is still in the works.

"Distance education right now is not going to be implemented. All online course we will be putting together will not be implemented yet because it has to work for all learners. Packets seem to be the most equitable for all learners but it's still not 100% equitable because some students need that one-on-one interaction with teachers, so we're still trying to figure out another way. For right now, for all learners we will do just

the packets," he said.

During a special Board of Education meeting last Tuesday, BOE members instructed Ada to look further into what could be done in terms of transitioning into online learning for the rest of the school year.

"Because some of our students need accommodation... We have to make sure we can provide that technologically. There will still be human contact but, again, we're not sure. If we don't accommodate these services, we're violating the...law," he said.

Aside from the idea of distributing educational packets for the week, Ada said he is looking to work with IT&E and Docomo Pacific to request help in providing internet for the student population that don't have access to internet.

"We are a system, everyone matters. Special Educa-

tion, honors, at-risk population, everybody is involved, even the average learner. The way I'm looking at this is either everyone's needs are being addressed, or nothing. The other idea is to contact IT&E and Docomo, which I will be meeting with them, to talk about offering WiFi to students who don't have. We have to first figure out a contract with IT&E...just for the remaining three months just so they can participate," he said.

Ada said that PSS is looking at shouldering the cost of providing WiFi services for over 1,000 students for the remaining three months of the school year.

"We're going to ask them first what they can offer and then we're going to meet them halfway... All we know is that over 1,000 students are receiving special services," he said. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

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CPA

From Page 1

tions at the Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport and Tinian International Airport effective tomorrow, Saturday, to the hours between 8am and 12pm daily. Again, except for emergencies and COVID-19-related flights.

CPA also clarified that the authority to suspend travel in and out of the CNMI lies with Homeland Security and not the CNMI government.

This was also pointed out by Guam

Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero yesterday. “I know many of you have asked me to ban all flights coming into Guam. I will do anything in my authority to keep our people safe. However, shutting down our airport is not within that authority. What I can do is implement a mandatory quarantine for all incoming passengers,” she said in a statement.

Tenorio said CPA has been receiving many requests to suspend inter-island air travel except for cases of emergencies and cargo transportation for commodities and postal services. “These concerns have been raised to

Star Marianas and they are taking it under advisement,” Tenorio said.

As of yesterday, CPA reported no scheduled flights arriving from China, Korea, and Japan beginning April 1.

Effective March 27, there will be no direct international flights arriving in the CNMI.

Tenorio said that, pursuant to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres’ executive order directive 8, all persons who are traveling into the CNMI, who originate from a country with an identified COVID-19 outbreak, including Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. main-

land, must exercise self-quarantine for 14 days as recommended by the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

Upon arrival, Tenorio said, passengers arriving from affected areas will be enrolled in the CHCC COVID-19 illness monitoring system and will be closely monitored.

“This directive does not differentiate between residents or non-residents or citizenship,” he said, adding that this a directive for all travelers to comply.

Returning CNMI citizens transiting through Guam coming from the U.S. mainland will be quarantined—either voluntarily or involuntary—once they leave the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Tenorio said.

For returning CNMI citizens traveling from Manila and transiting through Guam, there is a mandatory 14-day quarantine period in Guam, at the expense of the travelers and the airlines, unless they possess a Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services-certified document that attests they are not infected with the virus. The same is true for those traveling from Manila through

Guam; there is a mandatory 14-day quarantine in Guam at the expense of the travelers and the airlines.

For returning CNMI citizens transiting through Guam and coming from the U.S. mainland, there is a mandatory quarantine period once they leave the Saipan airport.

“Travelers may leave the airport but must self-quarantine at the hotel,” Tenorio said.

For individuals seeking entry into Guam, Tenorio said, effective yesterday, Thursday, nonresidents entering Guam who have spent a week or more in jurisdictions affected by COVID-19 will be subject to quarantine unless they possess a DPHSS-certified document that attests they are not infected with the virus.

Tenorio said nonresidents means any person coming to Guam and plans to stay for a short period of time, who has no family ties to Guam, is not a student, and does not have a work visa or permit.

“Given that we have no confirmed cases of COVID-19, we are not considered to be an affected jurisdiction so there will be no imposition of a quarantine,” he pointed out.

GOOD

From Page 1

people braces to see more carnage than China, a nation of 1.4 billion.

Italy registered 2,978 deaths on Wednesday after another 475 people died. Given that Italy has been averaging more than 350 deaths a day since March 15, it’s likely to overtake China’s 3,249 dead when Thursday’s figures are released at day’s end.

U.N. and Italian health authorities have cited a variety of reasons for Italy’s high toll, key among them its large elderly population, who are particularly susceptible to developing serious complications from the virus. Italy has the world’s second oldest population after Japan’s and the vast majority of Italy’s dead—87%—were over age 70.

In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says 80% of the nation’s 138 deaths

have taken place in people over 65. Overall, 8,900 patients have died around the world, and 84,000 have recovered. Aside from the elderly and the sick, most people only have mild or moderate symptoms, like a fever or cough.

In the meantime, the news from China’s central city of Wuhan, where the virus first emerged late last year, offered a rare glimmer of hope and perhaps a lesson in the strict measures needed to halt its spread. It came as President Donald Trump likened the fight to “a war” and invoked emergency powers that allow him to compel manufacturers to deal with the pandemic.

Wuhan once was the place where thousands lay sick or dying in hurriedly constructed hospitals, the first place in the world where medical facilities appeared overwhelmed. But Chinese authorities said Thursday that all 34 new cases recorded over the previous day had been imported from abroad.

“Today, we have seen the dawn after so many days of hard effort,” said Jiao Yahui, a senior inspector at the National Health Commission.

While China did not report any new cases in Wuhan or Hubei province, it did record eight additional deaths. Wuhan has been under a strict lockdown since January. Officials are moving to loosen travel restrictions, but only inside the surrounding province of Hubei. Wuhan remains cut-off, with only those with special permission allowed to travel in or out.

Still, the virus, which has infected 219,000 people around the world, took its toll elsewhere, both in human and economic terms.

European stock markets were up only slightly after losses in Asia despite a massive 750 billion-euro stimulus package announced overnight by the European Central Bank. Oil dropped below \$21 a barrel Wednesday for the first time since 2002, and rose slightly Thursday to \$23.

GUAM

From Page 1

Of the four new cases, one had travel history. The three others confirmed on Wednesday, March 18, had no travel history.

In all, a total of 81 tests were performed from March 12, 2020 through March 19, 2020 with conclusive results. To date, a total of 12 cases have tested positive in Guam and 69 cases tested negative.

As part of the GovGuam’s coordinated COVID-19 response, the DPHSS continues contact tracing for the 12 positive COVID-19 cases identified this week. The contact tracing investigation includes identifying close contacts of the individuals. Close contacts may include family members and co-workers who will be quarantined and actively monitored by DPHSS for 14 days after their last contact with the case.

Additionally, GovGuam has instituted COVID-19 Mandatory Quarantine Protocol (MQP) measures for all incoming travelers. Any and all travelers arriving without these credentials will be subject to mandatory quarantine.

Torres orders curfew for minors

In the CNMI, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has directed the Department of Public Safety and all CNMI law enforcement officers to strictly enforce the curfew laws for minors throughout Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

This means all minors (persons under the age of 18) must remain in-

doors from 7pm until 6am.

This is in line with the implementation of the Amended Executive Order 2020-004, which placed the CNMI under the state of public health emergency and a continued state of significant emergency.

“In an effort to reduce the risks of the spread of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth, I issued Directive No. 2020-005 which extends the applicable curfew hours for all minors (people under the age of 18) in the Commonwealth to 7pm until 6am as we continue our public health emergency,” Torres said.

The governor is urging the entire community to have all minors home by 7pm, not just for their safety but for the safety of the entire community.

“This is part of our social distancing policy, meaning if we all do it together, we can limit the rise of new COVID-19 infections here in the Marianas,” Torres said.

Pursuant to curfew laws, the only exceptions include minors who are accompanied by their parent, guardian, or an adult, who are in the direct route driving and returning home, or who are lawfully employed during the hours specified.

Under the directive, it is illegal for minors to loiter from 7pm until 6am, in or about any public streets, highways, roads, alleys, parks, public buildings, places of amusement and entertainment, restaurants, cafes and other eateries, or vacant lots and places, in all of the CNMI.

Anyone who violates this directive may be imprisoned for a period not to exceed 30 days, and up to 250 hours of community service.

Minors found in violation may be cited or arrested and detained, and be subjected to the provisions of the juvenile court law.

The curfew is to remain in effect until the emergency declaration has been lifted or until further notice.

Police officers are directed to enforce these new temporary curfew hours.

In a separate press release, DPS said it will be strictly be enforcing the curfew laws.

Torres’ COVID-19 Task Force and the police advise the public to refrain from making unnecessary trips to public places and to limit public exposure to grocery store trips and food pick-ups.

Amended EO

Torres also amended his EO by adding a sub-section on interisland travel within the Commonwealth. It now directs any individual entering the CNMI, whose ultimate destination is the island of Tinian or Rota, to exercise the 14-day self-quarantine on Saipan before proceeding to their final destination.

The 14-day self-quarantine is mandatory for individuals traveling from a country with an identified COVID-19 outbreak, including Hawaii, Guam, and the continental U.S.

Upon successful completion of the quarantine period, the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. shall issue a document stating that individual is clear of COVID-19. The individual must then present the document to any vessel or airline when checking in for a flight or vessel to Tinian and Rota. An individual without the document will not be allowed to proceed to his/her next destination.

KILILI

From Page 1

House of Representatives first passed the bill on Saturday with bipartisan support.

The new law makes coronavirus testing free for anyone, with or without insurance. In the Marianas, however, and many areas of the country there are limited supplies to take test samples from persons, who show symptoms of the disease. Nationwide, laboratories are straining to analyze the samples. Currently, samples from the Marianas are sent to Guam for analysis.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said that his congressional office is working with the Commonwealth Health Center to expedite certification of a laboratory in the Marianas. And the Commonwealth was awarded \$370,000 last week that can be used to pay for testing equipment and supplies. The funds came from the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act the House passed on March 4 and the President signed on March 6.

Loans for small business, non-profits

That first act of Congress in response to the coronavirus also provides a funding lifeline for cash-strapped small businesses and non-profits. The Small Business Administration is authorized to loan up to \$7 billion, nationwide, at low interest rates, if businesses are in a geographic area economically impacted by the disease.

Sablan wrote to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres earlier this week urging the governor to apply for the necessary declaration from SBA administrator to qualify businesses in the Marianas for the loans. Torres reported he was working on the application.

To date 23 states and the District of Columbia have received approval. Turn-around time, once a governor sends an application, is 24 to 72 hours, SBA told the congressional of-

fice on Wednesday. The SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan program can provide each business up to \$2 million.

Third economic relief bill

Sablan said that Congress and the White House are already preparing a third legislative response, as the coronavirus crisis deepens across the country. Sablan introduced legislation providing operating funds to the Commonwealth government on March 5. He wants direct aid to states and insular areas losing revenue because of the coronavirus to be included in the next spending package.

Sablan is also supporting relief funding for airlines and other businesses critical to the tourism industry.

Sablan returned to Washington yesterday to advocate personally for full inclusion of the Marianas, as Congress continues its response to the health and economic impact of the coronavirus.

Direct payments

Sablan said he also wants direct payments from the federal government to individuals everywhere in America to make up for lost income, as restaurants, retail stores, and businesses throughout the economy turn close their doors and lay off workers. “Seventy percent of GDP is consumer spending,” Sablan said. “If people stop spending, our economy grinds to a halt; and it will be difficult to start up again.

“People need to have money in their pockets—for the sake of the economy and to take care of their family’s needs.”

One federal program that helps those out of work or underemployed because of the coronavirus kicked in yesterday. The U.S. Department of Labor announced \$100 million is available for Dislocated Worker Grants. The Marianas Department of Labor is familiar with the program, which it administered after Super Typhoon Yutu. The grants pay to put eligible workers into temporary jobs or training. **(PR)**

Torres: Stay home

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The Office of the Governor reiterated its call for everyone in the community to “please stay home” and to avoid unnecessary travel as much as possible.

In a social media post yesterday, the administration said that social distancing has been determined by global health experts as the most important factor to control the COVID-19 outbreak.

The post explained that people are not being asked to stay home to protect themselves, but is meant to protect those who are most vulnerable to COVID-19.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres stressed the importance of staying home in March 16, Monday, when he placed the CNMI under a state of public health emergency.

“Please stay home. ...Stay home with your loved ones and spend time with them. The more you stay home the better chances that we will weather this virus across.

“Our elderly are the most vulnerable, and it doesn’t matter who you are, it doesn’t matter your nationality or age [is], when you get to that elderly [stage], you are the most vulnerable in getting this virus,” Torres added.

The governor also released the “COVID-19 Guidance for the Marianas—Stay at Home, Slow the Spread” last Wednesday, as an appeal for everyone to stay home.

People who are sick, those who have someone in their home who is sick, are advised to stay home, not go to work, to avoid social gatherings, and to contact their personal doctor, or the COVID-19 INFO LINE at 285-1542, 285-1672, 285-1352, or 285-1854.

Also, under the COVID-19 Guidance, the *man’amko* and people with preexisting illnesses such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease, are advised to stay home and to stay away from people as much as possible.

Torres, also in Monday’s interview, advised everyone: “When there’s elderly at home, when you enter the home, please wash your hand, wash it with soap, and spend time washing it.”

“If there’s a hand sanitizer, please use it before you enter [the room where]...your mom, your grandma, your grandpa or any elderly [is],” he added.

People are also advised to work or do schoolwork from home whenever possible and reasonable, to avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10, and to avoid

eating out at restaurants and instead, to use drive-thru, to-go, or delivery options.

The practice of good hygiene practices is also advised: washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available; covering one’s mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing; avoiding touching the face, and the disinfecting of frequently used items such as cellphones, computers, and household items.



■ Please stay home and avoid unnecessary travel as much as possible.

■ If you feel sick or if someone in your home is sick, stay home. Do not go to work. Avoid social gatherings. Contact your personal doctor or call the COVID-19 Info Line at 285-1542, 285-1672, 285-1352, or 285-1854.

■ If you are an older person (*man’amko*), you are more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. Stay home and away from other people as much as possible.

■ If you are a person with a preexisting illness (such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease), you are more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. Stay home and away from other people as much as possible.

■ Work or do schoolwork from home whenever possible and reasonable.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Avoid eating out at restaurants, use drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options.

■ Continue practicing good hygiene:

● Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

● Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

● Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.

● Avoid touching your face.

● Disinfect frequently used items (cellphones, computers, household items) as much as possible.

Source: Office of the Governor



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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Labor

Office of the Secretary
1356 Mednilla Avenue | Capitol Hill | P.O. Box 10007 | Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 664-3196 | Fax: (670) 664-3197



NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS

In accordance with Employment Rules and Regulations of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC), the CNMI Department of Labor (CNMI DOL) mandates compliance of the following regulations for all eligible private sector employers. Failure or refusal to comply is cause for the CNMI DOL to issue a Notice of Warning to the employer which may result in fines and other sanctions following a due process hearing in the Administrative Hearing Office.

1. Post Job Vacancy Announcement on CNMI DOL website

An employer who intends to employ a foreign national worker, transitional worker, or nonimmigrant alien on a full-time basis (under any new employment arrangement, any renewal of any existing employment arrangement, or any transfer) must post a Job Vacancy Announcement (JVA) on the CNMI DOL website at www.marianaslabor.net. NMIAC § 80-20.1-225(a). No waiver is available for the job vacancy announcement requirement. NMIAC § 80-20.1-225(e).

2. Submit Total Workforce Listing

Each business employer shall report quarterly, as of the last day of the calendar quarter, the number of employees, job classification, and the hourly wage of employees for whom wages were paid during the quarter. NMIAC § 80-20.1-505(b) (emphasis added). The Department requires employers to present this information in a document called "Total Workforce Listing."

The Total Workforce Listing is due each quarter:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1st Quarter (January - March) | due on April 30 |
| 2nd Quarter (April - June) | due on July 31 |
| 3rd Quarter (July - September) | due on October 31 |
| 4th Quarter (October - December) | due on January 31 |

Attention: The total Workforce Listing for the 1st Quarter 2020 is due on or before April 30, 2020. Online submissions may be emailed to documents@marianaslabor.net (in excel format) or delivered to the DOL Administrative Services Office, Building # 1356, Capitol Hill. Online submission are preferable.

3. Adhere to Workforce Participation Minimum Percentage requirement

Any employer, unless exempt, who employs workers on a full-time basis must certify that 30% or more of its full-time employees are U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, and/or CNMI permanent residents. 3 CMC § 4525 and NMIAC § 80-20.1-210(c)(3). Failure to maintain a minimum percentage of 30% will result in a Notice of Violation filed against the employer.

4. Submit new or updated Workforce Plan

All employers who employ nonimmigrant alien workers, unless exempt, must submit a new or updated Workforce Plan every twelve months. NMIAC § 80-20.1-510(c). A workforce plan shall identify specific positions currently occupied by a foreign national worker and timetable for accomplishing the replacement of the foreign national worker with qualified U.S. citizens, CNMI permanent residents, and U.S. permanent residents until the workforce participation objective is met. NMIAC § 80-20.1-510(b). The Workforce Plan form is available under the Forms & Publications tab on the CNMI DOL website, www.marianaslabor.net.

Public warned of strong rip currents

The public is being warned of a high risk of rip currents along north and northwest facing reefs through late Friday afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a long-period northwest swell will join forces with wrapping trade wind swell to create strong and frequent rip currents on the northern part of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. This creates dangerous

conditions for swimmers and beach goers.

The affected sites are near the Mochong and the Swimming Hole on Rota, near Puntan Tahgong on Tinian, and near Banzai Cliff, Wing Beach, and Cow Town Beach on Saipan.

Rip currents are powerful channels of water flowing quickly away from shore that can pull the best swimmer out to sea. The public is advised that that strong rip currents will be life threatening along north and northwest facing reefs. **(PR)**

SSA alerts public to scammers

The Social Security Administration assures that it will continue to pay benefits to its beneficiaries and is warning the public that scammers may try to trick people into thinking the pandemic is stopping the issuance of Social Security payments.

"I want you to hear directly from me how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting our services. ...Be aware that scammers may try to trick you into thinking the pandemic is stopping your Social Security payments but that is not true. Don't

be fooled," said Social Security Commissioner Andrew Saul.

To protect you and help stop the spread of this coronavirus, SSA cannot accept visitors in its offices at this time. There are several other ways you can get help. Many services are available online at www.socialsecurity.gov. If you have a critical need that you cannot address online, SSA can help you over the phone. Visit its COVID-19 web page at www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/ to find out what services are continuing and which ones

are suspended, how to contact SSA, and important information about deadlines it is extending to ease the burden on beneficiaries and medical providers during this pandemic.

Effective last March 17, 2020, all local Social Security offices were closed to the public for in-person service, but online services remain

available at www.socialsecurity.gov.

"Local offices will also continue to provide critical services over the phone. We are working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state and local governments, and other experts to monitor COVID-19 and will let you know as soon as we can resume in-person service," the agency said in a statement. **(PR)**

Plant a native tree on Saturday

In celebration of March 21 as International Day of Forests, the Micronesia Conservation Trust is encouraging everyone to plant at least one native tree on Saturday.


There will no formal ceremony where people can gather to do the tree planting. Instead, MCT encourages people to plant the tree, individually and in one's own area, in consideration of the social distancing directives.

"Because of this unprecedented situation we face today with COVID-19, a formal ceremony where people come together on Saturday is not encouraged; however, should you be interested in planting

a tree, do so individually in the comfort of your own area, farm or backyard," Micronesia Challenge terrestrial champion Roseo Marquez said.

In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests. The theme for 2020 is "Forest and Biodiversity."

MCT, to celebrate, encourages everyone to join Micronesia in its #plantatreechallenge by planting at least one native tree this Saturday, March 21. They are also asking those who would be joining to take a photo with the plant, and share and tag Micronesia Conservation Trust.. **(Iva Maurin)**



A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service ANNOUNCEMENT

Closing date for Karidat Shelter Worker position will be postponed until further notice due to the inability to obtain required document.



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB20-CHCC/MCHB-001**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 30, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM

"LEASE VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO RFP'S TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP20-CHCC/OD2A-002**

NEW SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 6, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM

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COLOR COPIER/NETWORK PRINTER/SCANNER"**

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
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**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
EIGHT (8) ARFF ROLL UP DOORS REPLACEMENT**

PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-20

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING
DESIGN SERVICES**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for replacement of eight (8) roll up doors at the Airport Fire Station of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and/or wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: 2/21/2020



**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TSA RECAPITALIZATION PROGRAM**

PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-006-16

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport TSA Recapitalization Program Project, No. CPA-SA-006-16, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this RFQ shall be addressed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager and delivered to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962, or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications. Qualification statements shall be submitted by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020 (CHST)**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: February 27, 2020



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**

**TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PARKING LOT EXPANSION
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-20**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for expansion of the parking lot at the Tinian International Airport on the island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 27, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 11, 2020

HANMI hotel occupancy at 55% in February 2020

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a 55% average occupancy rate among its 11 member-hotels for February 2020. The figure reflects a 39% decrease for HANMI hotels compared to February 2019 and a 30% decrease of total rooms sold.

A total of 39,406 of 71,233

available room nights sold during the month, compared to 56,394 of 62,370 available room night sold in February 2019. Average room rates were \$153.35 compared to \$190.42 last February.

"Visitors arrivals in February were already starting to show the effect of COVID-19,

and now in March we are seeing the single digit occupancy rates at many of our hotels," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "Hopefully, our members will be able to take advantage of economic disaster aid. In the meantime, we have done our best to batten down the hatches and weather

this storm with our employees and with our community."

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical reports are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan,

Kensington Hotel Saipan, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of The Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. (PR)

BECQ warns public of misbranded disinfectants

With the heightened call for sanitation and disinfection to prevent the entry and spread of the novel coronavirus in the CNMI, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality is warning against the use of misbranded disinfectant products that could potentially harm the community.

Last Friday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a list of EPA-regis-

tered disinfectant products that are qualified for use against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

The list, which can be accessed at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>, is searchable, and also includes the product's active ingredients and the amount of time the surface should remain wet "to be effective against the given pathogen."

Only pesticides that are actively registered by EPA are allowed for import, sale, and use in the CNMI.

According to BECQ, the products on the list may be sold under different "brand names" but if they have the same EPA registration number, they are the same product. Users must ensure that the directions for use on the product label are followed for proper

use and effectiveness.

"One of BECQ's main priorities is to protect public health and the environment from harmful pesticides and chemicals. The use of misbranded/adulterated pesticide products places our community, especially our children and elderly, at risk of being exposed to toxic substances and potential harm," the public notice reads. "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as our federal counterpart, has expressed a high-level

concern of the possibility of manufacturers selling and distributing 'disinfectant products,' making false pesticidal claims about the coronavirus."

To report misbranded items, or for more information, call or leave a message with the BECQ Pesticides Branch at 664-8512, or visit the BECQ website at www.deg.gov.mp.

BECQ will take enforcement actions against markets selling misbranded or adulterated pesticides. (Iva Maurin)

9th Circuit extends deadline for civics contest

SAN FRANCISCO—The 2020 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, an essay and video competition for high school students sponsored by federal courts of the western United States, has been extended. The new deadline for entries is 11:59pm Pacific Time on Wednesday, April 15, 2020. For more information, visit <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>.

In light of the coronavirus 2019, or COVID-19,

many school districts have closed their schools for up to three weeks and moving to distance learning programs whenever possible. The contest may provide a good opportunity for high school students in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, the U.S. territory of Guam and the CNMI, to participate in the contest while school is out

and they are submitting assignments to their class websites.

The theme of the contest, "The Right to Vote: Milestone Anniversaries," poses the following challenge to participants: In the wake of the 15th and 19th Amendments, barriers remained to prevent U.S. citizens from voting. Do formal or informal barriers remain today? What additional changes would you make, if any, to

Americans' voting rights?

Students in grades 9-12 may enter the contest and submit their essays using a mobile phone as an option. However, this option is not available for video entries due to large file sizes. Students may enter both the essay and video competitions. A student is allowed to submit one essay and to submit one video either as an individual or part of a team of up to three members.

The contest is cosponsored by the Courts and Community Committee of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit

and the federal courts in the 15 judicial districts that make up the circuit. For more information about the Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, contact the Ninth Circuit Office of the Circuit Executive, (415) 355-8873/civicscontest@ce9.uscourts.gov. (PR)

Manglona recuses self from wrongful death suit

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has recused herself from presiding over a wrongful death lawsuit filed by a Washington-based widow over the death of her 65-year-old husband, who went missing after scuba diving with three other persons at the Grotto in 2018.

Manglona disqualified herself from the case as Harry Blalock, who is among the defendants in the lawsuit, was also her scuba diving instructor.

Manglona said the case is reassigned to District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood.

Madelyn Jones is suing Axe Murderer Tours LLC and its owner, Blalock, Green Flash LLC and its owner, Joe McDoulett, Professional Association of Dive Instructors Worldwide Corp., and PADI America's Inc.

Jones, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, is suing the defendants for negligence-wrongful death and for breach of Consumer Protection Act. She is also suing PADI Worldwide and PADI Americas for negligence and vicarious liability.

Jones is suing for over \$75,000 in damages, plus attorney's fees and court costs.

McDoulett, who is a lawyer and a former Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent,

refused to comment about the lawsuit yesterday. Blalock also has no comment.

According to Fitzgerald in the complaint, the incident happened at the Grotto Dive Site in Marpi Nov. 18, 2018.

Authorities searched for

John Jones for several days. The search was suspended on Nov. 24, 2018. He was never found. The Superior Court issued a presumptive death certificate on March 22, 2019, with a date of death of Nov. 18, 2018. (Ferdie De La Torre)

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Amount of beach litter goes up as many stay home

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the threat posed by the coronavirus pandemic, sanitation and keeping the environment clean for public health is key, according to Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan), who is calling on everyone to be responsible, to work together, and to take part in ensuring that the entire island remains clean.

"I understand our community and the rest of the world is dealing with the COVID-19 coronavirus but we cannot forget about our environment around us," he said. "Although we are seeing a huge decline in our tourist visitors, we still need to do our part as a



Staff of Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan) helps clear trash bins along the beaches that were found overflowing with garbage.

community to keep our islands clean and beautiful."

Camacho made the statement upon seeing trash bins

overflowing with, as well as trees lined with, garbage, particularly near beaches.

"We cannot simply rely on

our government to do everything for us, we have to work together during these difficult times especially with a lot of the suspensions in government services being implemented," he said.

Camacho stressed that the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Division of Parks and Recreation does a fantastic job maintaining the cleanliness of the beach, and is asking for the community to help keep it up.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres himself stressed the importance of environmental and health safety when he directed that the landfill remains open despite the two-week government shutdown, following the

signing of Executive Order 2020-04 last Monday that declared CNMI under the state of public health emergency.

"When you look at it, it's not just an environmental issue; it becomes a public health issue," Torres said.

The landfill operations are essential, as is keeping the islands clean and trash-free, as the CNMI continues its vigilance to implement preventative measures related to COVID-19.

The CNMI's anti-littering law prohibits illegal dumping, including the depositing of trash generated at home or business into any public trash container, except those found

at transfer stations.

Littering, under the law, means throwing, dropping, placing, depositing, sweeping, discarding, abandoning, or otherwise disposing of any litter on land or water in other than appropriate litter containers or areas designated for such purpose.

"It is just so sad to continue seeing large amounts of trash and even household trash being left behind our beaches," Camacho said. "We are a strong and resilient community and I humbly implore everyone to please, please at least pick up after our own trash before we leave our beaches."

NAP still accepting applications at its office locations

The Nutrition Assistance Program is still providing application forms and accepting applications via the drop box at its As Lito office location.

Applications will continue to be reviewed and acted on; however, all interviews and consultations related to applications for NAP benefits will be carried out over the telephone, not in-person. Applicants may also contact NAP with questions related to their application via telephone at 237-2801 or 237-2802.

On Rota, applications can be picked up and dropped off at the DCCA's office at the Old Rota High School in Songsong. Applicants on Rota can call 532-9354 with questions about their application.

On Tinian, applications can be picked up and dropped off at the DCCA's office at the San Jose Village Gymnasium. Applicants on Tinian can call 433-9330 with questions

about their application.

NAP is currently issuing the remaining benefits and those who have recently been authorized for the month of March 2020 on Saipan. However, only six individuals at a time are allowed to enter the Benefit Issuance Center at the As Lito office.

Additionally, NAP is working on protocols for the distribution of benefits during the issuance weeks for April, to ensure this is carried out in the safest way possible. An "open-air" distribution, limitations on the number of recipients at a time, physical distancing between recipients and between recipients and staff, sanitation regimes, and other measures are being taken into consideration in the design of the issuance protocol.

NAP will be providing additional public notice regarding the protocol for the April issuance of benefits in the coming days. (PR)

MCS to resume face-to-face classes on March 30

On March 17, 2020, Mount Carmel School's Leadership Team continued its consultation with the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, and the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force to seek guidance on how to move forward with the spread of COVID-19. Based on a lengthy meeting with extensive discussion, and consistent with CNMI Executive Order No. 2020-04 from the Office of the Governor declaring a state of public health emergency and continued state of significant emergency, the school has decided to take the following steps.

Spring break will be rescheduled and extended to cover the period of March 16 through March 27. This will allow the school to participate in community-wide mitigation and containment efforts for

COVID-19 without sacrificing too much instructional time.

Face-to-face classes will resume on Monday, March 30, with additional safety and health precautions implemented to ensure the safety of students, teachers, and their families.

To maximize remaining instructional time, Mini-Course Week, from April 6 through April 9, will be cancelled.

As a result of this rescheduling, there will be no Spring break from April 13 through April 17.

In addition, the school will continue precautionary measures to ensure the safety of its students, teachers, and their families, including suspending its short-term auditing program for foreign students, reinforcing campus cleaning with disinfectants, sharing information from the Centers for Disease Control on proper personal hy-

giene, and requiring a 14-day quarantine for any member of the school family returning from off-island travel.

Until further notice, when classes resume on March 30, the school will exercise social distancing by suspending all major assemblies (flag raising, Knights calisthenics, Friday Mass/rosary, etc.) and student activities (sports games, fundraisers, dances, etc.). Major events, like the induction ceremony for the Immaculate Conception Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society and the Father Arnold Bendowski Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society, will be postponed until such time that public health officials determine it is safe to hold large assemblies.

Mount Carmel School will continue to provide ample notification and information

to all students, parents, teachers, and families via email, our website, all our social media outlets, and local media.

"And finally, pray. As a Catholic school, our faith must be the center of our lives, no matter what is happening in the world. We invite all school stakeholders to join as one family as we pray the 'Prayer for Global Healing from Coronavirus' at exactly 8am Monday through Friday," the school said in a statement.

Students can also pray devotional prayers appropriate for the season of Lent like the Holy Rosary and the Stations of the Cross. And, during this time of mitigation and containment, everyone can follow daily masses from Mount Carmel Cathedral on the following Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/dioce-seofchalankanoa/videos/> (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 20, 2000

Purple Heart awarded to Dela Cruz

He was barely out of teens when the U.S. military seized Saipan from the hands of the Japanese forces. As his family hid from the horrors of World War II, 19-year-old Cristino Dela Cruz made a decision that forever changed the course of his life. Tapped by U.S. marines to help them defend the island from its invaders, he became a native scout/guide and risked his life—twice. While overlooked for his heroic efforts during the war for the past half century, Mr. Dela Cruz finally received recognition from the motherland by bestowing him one of the highest awards ever presented to armed forces members. On Friday, the 73-year-old Saipan resident was awarded the Purple Heart and Gold Star medal during a presentation held in his residence in Capitol Hills and attended by CNMI leaders and U.S. officials.

CUC revamp hailed

Two members of the Senate welcomed the change in the leadership of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board, saying it bodes well on the efforts to improve ties between the two agencies which have worsened in recent months due to differences of opinion on the Saipan power project. Under the leadership

of new Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero, they are hoping that the stalled 80-megawatt plant will push through as initially proposed despite earlier decision by CUC to scale down the project. "Whoever chairs it, I think the direction now is to try and work together with the Legislature. That's what we have wanted from the very start," said Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes.

March 20, 2001

CDA threatens to take over CUC

The Commonwealth Development Authority warned that it may takeover the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation if the power firm continues to ignore demands to pay its \$150 million debt. During the inquiry called in yesterday by House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication Chair Rosiky Camacho, CDA underscored CUC's obligation's to pay both the principal and the interest of the multi-million dollar loan. The much participated meeting drew attention from the Department of Finance, NMI Retirement Fund, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attorney General's Office and other members of the House of the Representatives.

Businessman on trial for drug trafficking

Members of the federal grand jury yesterday filled the jury box, signaling the start of a criminal case that has put a local businessman on trial for illegal drug-trafficking charges before the US District Court. Defendant Leo Sablan Pangelinan has been indicted before the federal grand jury on charges of possession of controlled substances on four counts. The charges include conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crystal metamphetamaine, its sale and distribution, and possessing with

intent to distribute metamphetamaine at different quantities.

March 20, 2005

DARE graduates 300 more students

To be free from prohibited drugs, to gain better self-esteem, and become the best citizens the CNMI would ever have are just some of the objectives of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program, according to its coordinator, police officer Tricia M. Seman. More than 300 students graduated Friday morning from the DARE program at Hopwood Junior High School. The graduates received certificates of accomplishment from the Department of Public Safety. DPS acting commissioner Bertha Tudela, who gave the opening remarks, Education associate commissioner David M. Borja, and the DPS-DARE team attended the commencement exercises.

Laptops, LCD projectors distributed for high-tech learning

Six principals gathered early Friday morning for the ceremonial turnover of 120 Gateway laptop computers and 25 liquid crystal display projectors at the Public School System office. The laptops were distributed for the enhancement of teaching Language, Arts, Science, and Social Studies given to teachers for a more and effective learning in the classroom. PSS gathered six high school principals that morning: Kagman High School principal Doreen Tudela, Rota Junior High School principal George Ayuyu, Chacha Oceanview Junior High School principal Vince Dela Cruz, Marianas High School principal James Denight, Hopwood Junior High School principal Jim Brewer, and Rota High School principal Matthew Ooka.

\$2.17M sole-source contract for airport's roof repairs approved

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors has approved a sole-source contract in the total amount of \$2.17 million to two contractors to perform several roof repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport that were damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

All CPA board members, except for Thomas Villagomez who abstained, approved the sole source contract between CPA management and roofing contractor, Reaction Company, in the amount of \$1,764,770, at a meeting last Thursday.

The procurement includes CPA's hiring of Pacific Engineering Group & Services to perform the construction management services in the amount of \$406,437.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said the airport's roof would have several leaks this coming rainy season if the repairs are not done expeditiously.

Tenorio said this project, which will take 225 calendar days to complete, also includes the hiring of PEGS to perform the construction man-

agement services.

He said that PEGS' original service fee was for \$441,963, but it was negotiated to only \$406,437. He said the repairs and consulting services will be funded by insurance proceeds that CPA received from their typhoon damage claims.

Tenorio said Reaction Company has extensive knowledge of the airport and its roofing system, as it is the original contractor that replaced the high roofs at the airport in 2007, completing the repair work to the United cargo building and POI Aviation's warehouse.

He said Reaction Company submitted proposal that is substantially lesser than the insurance company's estimate.

PEGs, on the other hand, is the original construction management for the airport's roof drainage and air-conditioner improvements project that was completed in 2016.

Tenorio said PEGs has extensive knowledge of the airport's roofing system and is familiar with the previous improvements to the rooftop pre-Super Typhoon Yutu.

Board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said in a later interview that the CNMI will soon be entering the rainy

season and that CPA has been having these ongoing discussions about the need to fix the roofs at the airport, thus the need to expedite that process.

She said it's also concerning for the traveling public who are walking through the airport and seeing all these buckets during the rainy season.

"And so we need to address it now. Immediately," she said, adding that Reaction Company "already has the plans, they know the design, and they can do it faster."

King-Hinds said the goal of sole-sourcing is to expedite it so that they don't have go into another rainy season and they're still talking about the same problem "over and over, and year after year."

She said the \$2.1 million is far less than what was originally estimated by the insurance adjuster in the amount of \$4 million.

To ensure that this project gets done before the rainy season, King-Hinds said that they just thought of going with somebody who's already familiar with the project and who knows exactly what they're doing, and already has the actual designs for the structure.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-IFB-20-001

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of approximately 20,000,000 US gallons annually of **No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel** for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel shall be uniform, first quality, ultra-low sulfur type, which shall conform in all aspects to the requirements, as set forth in "Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil" **ASTM D975-14**.

All Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The Bid Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-001, Supply and Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) April 9, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All responses to this IFB should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 24, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC-Power Engineer, Venugopal Prabhakar via email address venu.pabrahakar@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-20-014

LEASE OF OFFICE AND OPERATIONS SUPPORT FACILITY FOR CUC ROTA ADMINISTRATION & OPERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The IFB package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. Prospective Proposers for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered. For registration inquiries, please email Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-014, Lease of Office and Operations support facility for CUC Rota Administration and Operation."** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 23, 2020** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 9, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Director via email address william.gilmore@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-19-028, REV.1

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi Clarifier Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and replacement or repair of the effluent launder box; removal of the old circular clarifier mechanism and sections of the effluent launder box; replacement of the RFP weirs and scum baffle, installation of a new outer scum baffle; installation of new area lighting, wires, and conduit, and disconnect boxes; installation of a new process water spray system for foam control. The work shall include the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier; routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period; and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **March 12, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-028, Rev.1 Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) April 2, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 16, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

This is not a drill: It's time to prepare for an economic recession

As much as the nation's elected leaders from the White House to statehouses have found themselves at the vanguard of health care policy in recent days, taking dramatic actions to close schools, churches and businesses to lessen the severity of the coronavirus outbreak, the day is swiftly coming for equally decisive action to protect the nation's economy from the worst of a looming recession.

Indeed, it's not entirely clear whether "looming" is the correct word, given the widespread slowdown in spending and 28% decline in the Dow Jones from mid-February to mid-March. For many, COVID-19 means working for home, but for others it may mean not working at all. In all likelihood, the recession is here already.

The Federal Reserve appears to have recognized this, cutting benchmark interest rates to near-zero and pumping money into the economy, but there are limits to what can be done given how rates were already low. That puts the burden on President Donald Trump to negotiate an economic stimulus package with Congress based on his \$1 trillion proposal, which is larger than the aid package approved when Barack Obama was president at the depths of the Great Recession.

Direct cash payments to Americans of \$1,000 or more, small-business loans and a \$50 billion-plus bailout for the airline industry are in the mix. There isn't much support among House Democrats, however, for throwing money at wealthy airline shareholders who have made billions of dollars over the last decade.

Direct cash payments are another matter, as the idea originated in Congress and boasts bipartisan support, including that of a high-profile Republican, Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah. As Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin observed Tuesday, recipients would have to be income eligible, so no checks for millionaires. The alternative? Perhaps an unemployment rate of 20% according to Mnuchin.

Not to put too fine a point on it but the United States would be far better positioned for a global recession if Washington had put its budgetary house in order when the opportunity presented itself. Budget deficits have risen precipitously under President Trump, in large measure because of a tax cut that favored the wealthy and was not offset by spending reductions.

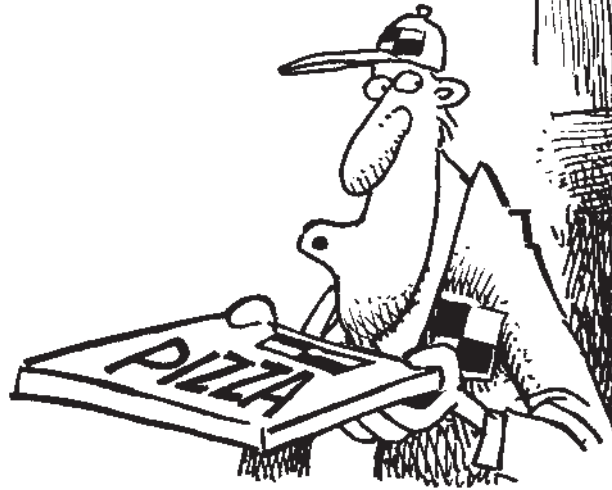
Going another trillion dollars or more in the red would seem less burdensome if the nation weren't already running a \$1.02 trillion deficit. That the "sugar high" stock market gains of the Trump years have already been wiped out in the downturn offers some lessons that academics can explore when we are on the other side of the economic collapse.

If elected officials at all levels of government appear a little flat-footed at the moment, can anyone really blame them? We're mostly thankful that the president is no longer in denial over COVID-19. One imagines he'll be much faster in pulling the trigger on anything that would put some wind in the economy's sails, especially sending checks to potential voters. When that happens, state and local leaders should be ready to jump on board with more help for those of us who will be struggling and more opportunities for business growth. Rough waters are ahead.

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WIMPEY PETERS

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Don'ts and dos on coronavirus

Some of the views expressed here are controversial. So, do ask your doctor. I hope you have one—not just the HMO or retail clinic "provider."

Don't panic. That is always good advice. If you, like the world's economy, operate on just-in-time inventories, and did not take advice to stock up 3 weeks ago, do not join a mob at a big-box store. Somebody there is no doubt infected. Plus, there's the risk of getting trampled or injured in a fist fight over the last roll of toilet paper. Most of the world survives without that luxury good. If you have no rice or beans or pasta in the pantry, that is more serious, but you should still avoid mobs if at all possible. Take-out and drive-through places are booming.

Don't treat fever without a doctor's advice. Fever is not a disease. It is an important defense mechanism. Very high fevers (say 105 degrees) can cause brain damage, and children can have seizures. But don't pop Tylenol or ibuprofen at the first sign of fever. Many of the casualties in the 1918 pandemic might have been caused by heavy use of aspirin. Like aspirin, popular nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen also have detrimental effects on blood clotting. Try lukewarm sponge baths for comfort.

Don't rush out and get a flu shot. I know, a lot of doctors and public health authorities urge everybody to do this. Influenza can kill you, and the flu shot decreases that risk by 30% to 60%—but there is evidence that it can make COVID-19 worse, both from the earlier SARS epidemic and lab research. Like with so many things in medicine, we have to play the odds.

Don't go to the emergency room or urgent care unless you are severely ill. There will be sick people there, and you might catch something. You also might end up with a big bill, say for a CT scan you didn't really need. And if you have the flu or a cold or COVID-19, and don't need IV fluids or oxygen, they can't do anything for you. Telephone advice lines could help greatly.

Don't go to events that are crowded, especially indoors in poorly ventilated rooms. Staying home is good.

Don't demand to be tested and rely on the results. The tests are still in short supply and not very accurate. If you are at low risk, a positive test is likely to be a false positive. And if you are infected, the test may be negative at first. We need much more testing—mainly for public health monitoring.

Don't waste. Expired medications are probably still good. Most drugs or essential ingredients are made in China, and supplies are running out. Masks (also mostly made in China) are meant to be disposable, but likely can't be replaced (see below).

Don't touch your face or your eyes. That is very hard—preventing that is one function of a mask and eye protection.

Don't fall for internet scams, or malware. Hucksters will al-

By JANE M. ORIENT, MD

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jane M. Orient, M.D. obtained her undergraduate degrees in chemistry and mathematics from the University of Arizona in Tucson, and her M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1974. She is currently president of Doctors for Disaster Preparedness.



ways be around to try to profit from panics. A new type of malicious virus is embedded malware in sites that come up on a search for information. (If you want to find the Johns Hopkins University dashboard of cases and deaths, go to the university's website, don't Google "coronavirus map.")

Now for some dos:

Do prepare to take care of yourself and your family. Be sure you have a fever thermometer, disposable gloves, plastic garbage bags, and cleaning supplies. A pulse oximeter, available in many places for around \$40, is good to have to check oxygen levels.

Do clean and disinfect surfaces such as doorknobs, telephones, computer keyboards, toilets, and countertops often. Virus can persist there for days.

Do remember that sunlight is the best disinfectant. If you don't have a pocket ultraviolet lamp (they are or were available on amazon), try putting things like masks or paper currency out in the sun. The idea should be rigorously tested, but in times of need, you may have to guess.

Do wash your hands often and use hand sanitizer. With SARS-CoV-2, most disinfectants work, including 70-percent-alcohol-based sanitizers.

Do put a mask on sick people if you can. For protecting yourself you need a minimum of an N95 mask and eye protection.

Do take your vitamins. Most people may be vitamin D deficient. Your need for vitamin C escalates with infection. Some 50 tons of vitamin C was shipped to Wuhan, and studies of effectiveness are underway.

Do get your essential prescriptions refilled for 90 days—the supply chain depends on China. If your managed-care plan won't pay, consider paying cash. You may be able to get a good price with a coupon from goodrx.com.

Do protect your immune system, with adequate sleep, exercise, fresh air, and diet, especially avoiding sugar if you feel ill.

Do help your neighbors, and be responsible about protecting others as well as yourself from contagion.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Virus is global

The entire world is at a standstill—aware, concerned and worried about the fatal coronavirus that has spread across the globe. The virus fills the lungs with fluid turning it dysfunctional until the person expires, according to a medical report.

It derails the sync in my train of thoughts but resort to spiritual meditation to stay focused and move on with my daily chores.

Yes! It's pandemic where every country must deal with its affected people. Timely that President Trump has declared a health emergency to neutralize its spread across the fruited plain. It has adversely hit small businesses and jobs in most places.

Last week, the U.S. Congress approved some \$850 billion to help Americans who suffered business and jobs losses regroup and rebuild. It's intended to protect businesses and employees from a fate forced upon them by a bad economy hailing from the fatal virus. A positive move lest there would be empty streets and shops in cities across the country.

We are placed in uncharted territory by the deadly virus. It's

good that hi-tech avails of Skype where people still meet, though limited to a laptop screen.

Also read an article that the medical community is without firsthand answers. Research continues in medical labs the world over. As this effort moves forward, more people continue being infected by it, according to a medical article.

People catch the deadly virus via transmission—person to person—though it also develops internally without contacting infected people. It's the strange behavior of pathogens that send medical experts delving into the issue to no avail.

We should be wary that the virus is hardest on the elderly and leaves no room for those with weakened immune system. It's this group that is most vulnerable to expiring when infected. Take care of your grandparents!

Interesting the geopolitical debate on the origin of the viral infection. Was it manufactured and if so, who did it and how did it spread the virus successfully worldwide?

Let's pray and hope that it doesn't make it to the islands to spare our people the unsolicited hardship that comes with the territory. It's good the order prohibiting visitors from nearby Asia to stem the spread of the deadly virus.

Solons

In addition, President Trump has instructed the Small Business Administration to provide capital to communities impacted by the virus. It would come in the form of low-interest loans to help small businesses overcome disruptions.

"It's a uniquely meaningful and thoughtful instructive inclusion in these trying times," said Sen. President Vic Hokog and Sen. Terry Santos. "It's a matter of rallying behind countrymen to ensure their wellbeing when everything seems to come to a standstill and hopelessness."

The President also asked Congress to expand the funds available for this program for small businesses by an additional \$50 billion. This is a major expansion and its benefits should help entrepreneurs across the national economy reset and rebuild.

He subsequently ordered protection of all employees from payroll losses (income) or job losses as a result of the decrease in the economy. What has leadership here done in similar fashion for small businesses here? "Not yet, already?"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR**Take out what you bring in!**

Litter is scattered at the Laolao Beach in this photo taken on March 19, 2020.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The threat of the COVID-19 virus to the residents of the CNMI is real. The steps taken by our administration, and particularly the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., to assure the safety and wellbeing of our community are commendable.

Private businesses are also stepping up and following protocols as recommended by health experts to prevent the spread, and are offering special services to the community to alleviate some of the anxieties that come with emergency situations.

Continued public sanitation practices are also of critical importance. Our beaches have now become hangout spots for those who have leisure time to enjoy nature, but who also have little regard for the importance of a trash-free environment.

It's common practice and an entitlement that some of our residents have become used to an attitude of "Let somebody

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

**Cancellation**

The President has also cancelled all travel from Europe for at least 30 days to curb the spread of the virus. What he's done is strictly presidential, guarding the wellbeing of his people across the country. He supports treatment and distribution of medical supplies.

The virus, though, is bad tidings for the elderly, especially those with underlying health conditions. Comforting to know kids have the resiliency to ward off the virus. Saves families health care cost and dreadful trips to the hospital.

The last time a disease of pandemic proportions hit the islands was in the '60s when the measles floored most people here. It comes with a real high fever, bringing you closer to the entrance of the pearly gate. It was a tough cookie all the way around.

Decrease

Economic decrease has hit the NMI and that means far less revenue for basic needs. No worries! Let's take it a step at a time: resolve the coronavirus first. Once it's behind us, things ought to return to normalcy.

As worrisome and difficult the challenge the fatal viral infection brings, I am optimistic we could weather the storm.

It's good the governor quickly discouraged entry of people from countries where the pest is common, a timely preventive measure.

It's one time in our developmental history when the cultural sense of extending a helping hand to the less fortunate ones is timely. It helps us come to pulling those who have fallen behind walk together in unison.

T.O.A.S.T.: Telling Old-Age Sonnet Tales**LITERARY NOOK**

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

In my Mental Mall St. Patrick's on Call

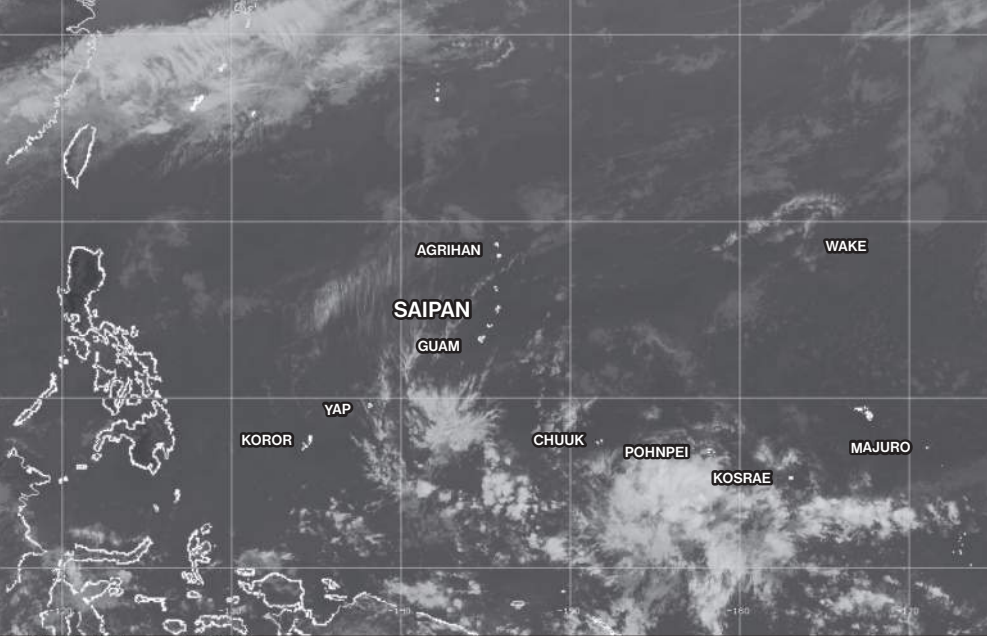
In my mental mall St. Patrick's Grammar on call a Catholic school I attended in 7th and 8th grade sister Mary went there too many friends we made with boys on the soda shop corner I had a ball teachers dressed like penguins Sisters of Mercy order our class was together all day taught by one nun who was lacking in humor and intolerant of disorder out on the playground at noon we'd have some fun our 7th grade Sister of Mercy by name was a real meany she slapped me seventeen times in a row in my face Dicko got 47, more than 20 slaps for Grady and Sweeney on the 3rd floor across from St. Pat's church on Park Place outside I was a loudmouth joker inside quite tender my interest in girls began back in those halcyon days JoAnn, Linda, Kathy, and the older sister of Rita Hayes her Irish eyes sparkled, glistening black hair and slender but I a chubby jerkball goofball really wanted to kiss her adolescent shyness stopped me and I missed the chance and thus missed having the thrill of a first young romance now in the winter of life I look back at that spring when a farmer up the road with horses did plough happy St. Patrick's Grammar School memories still cling tears and love and lots of laughter still fresh till now.

Caveat Emptor: Ignoring the Ides of March

Beware the Jabberwocky! Beware the Ides of March! Caveat Emptor! Beware a large purple dinosaur! Be leery of soap operas and eating laundry starch Stay away from Jurassic Park beware the velociraptor Pay no attention to the fortune teller and the carney Don't fall prey to merchandise labeled Hello Kitty Or that omnipresent purple dinosaur named Barney Pay no heed to gossips in a town without pity Wash hands frequently don't panic about the virus Physician heal thyself the ancient Greek doctor said Look for ethical leaders and scientific truth to inspire us Apply whatever common sense is already in your head Careful what you wish for you might someday get it Who the hell said it? You might as well just forget it.

The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|--|-----|--|-----|
| TODAY | | SATURDAY | | SUNDAY | | MONDAY | | TUESDAY | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | | Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. | | Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. | |
| 86° | 76° | 87° | 76° | 87° | 76° | 87° | 76° | 87° | 76° |
| YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE | | | | | | | | | |



PICTURE TIME: 6:18 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A diffuse shear line can be seen across the northern CNMI near Agrihan. A surface trough runs northwestward from a weak circulation southwest of Chuuk near 2N147E to end southwest of Guam at 11N143E. Two modest trade-wind disturbances are present east of Guam near 13N151E and southwest of Wake Island near 17N164E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

| MICRONESIA | | | ▲ | ▼ | °F |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|---|---|----|
| Guam and Rota | Showers | 86° / 76° | | | |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 86° / 78° | | | |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 87° / 79° | | | |
| Chuuk | Partly Cloudy | 87° / 80° | | | |
| Pohnpei | Windy | 86° / 79° | | | |
| Kosrae | Windy | 86° / 79° | | | |
| Majuro | Partly Cloudy | 84° / 80° | | | |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | | ▲ | ▼ | °F |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|---|---|----|
| Auckland | Showers | 72° / 63° | | | |
| Beijing | Mostly Sunny | 66° / 37° | | | |
| Hong Kong | Cloudy | 77° / 72° | | | |
| Honolulu | Thunderstorms | 80° / 71° | | | |
| London | Cloudy | 50° / 39° | | | |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | 62° / 52° | | | |
| Manila | Mostly Sunny | 93° / 79° | | | |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | 66° / 54° | | | |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 79° / 72° | | | |
| New York | Showers | 74° / 44° | | | |
| Osaka | Sunny | 63° / 48° | | | |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | 61° / 43° | | | |
| Busan | Sunny | 63° / 52° | | | |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | 66° / 45° | | | |
| Salem | Showers | 82° / 61° | | | |
| San Francisco | Mostly Sunny | 58° / 46° | | | |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 63° / 43° | | | |
| Tokyo | Sunny | 66° / 48° | | | |
| Washington, DC | Cloudy | 79° / 49° | | | |

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|--|------|
| 6:29 AM | LOW TIDE | | 1.66 |
| 12:09 PM | HIGH TIDE | | 1.00 |
| 4:57 PM | LOW TIDE | | 1.52 |
| - | - | | - |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:21 AM | 6:27 PM |
| Saturday | 6:20 AM | 6:28 PM |
| Sunday | 6:19 AM | 6:28 PM |
| Monday | 6:19 AM | 6:28 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:18 AM | 6:28 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Today | 3:36 AM | 3:12 PM | - |
| Saturday | 4:20 AM | 4:02 PM | - |
| Sunday | 5:01 AM | 4:51 PM | - |
| Monday | 5:39 AM | 5:39 PM | - |
| Tuesday | 6:15 AM | 6:25 PM | - |

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| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 19, 2020 | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|---------|---------------------------|--|---------------------|---------|----------|---------------------------|--|
| DEPARTURES | | | | | ARRIVALS | | | | |
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | | |
| UA117 | 9:15am | 9:55am | Daily | | UA174 | 7:30am | 8:11am | Daily | |
| UA156 | 6:20pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6 | | UA112 | 4:45pm | 5:26pm | 2, 4, 6 | |
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) | | | | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | | |
| SKY816 | 4:35pm | 7:30pm | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 | | SKY811 | 10:15am | 3:00pm | Daily | |
| SKY816 | 5:05pm | 8:00pm | 6 | | | | | | |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | | |
| 7C3451 | 3:20am | 6:30am | 4, 7 up to Mar 22 only | | 7C3452 | 9:35pm | 2:30am+1 | 6 up to Mar 21 only | |
| | | | | | 7C3452 | 10:05pm | 2:30am+1 | 3 up to Mar 18 only | |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | | | | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | | |
| OZ6243 | 3:10pm | 7:00pm | 4, 6 up to Mar 19 only | | OZ6233 | 7:30am | 12:50pm | 4, 6 up to Mar 19 only | |
| OZ624 | 3:30pm | 9:10pm | 1, 5, 7 up to Mar 22 only | | OZ625 | 8:10am | 1:40pm | 1, 5, 7 up to Mar 22 only | |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | | |
| UA117/183 | 9:15am | 9:50pm | Daily via GUM | | UA189/174 | 12:40am | 8:11am+1 | 3, 6 via GUM | |
| UA117/193 | 9:15am | 11:50pm | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR | | UA192/174 | 10:40pm | 8:11am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR | |
| UA156/183 | 6:20pm | 9:50pm | 2, 4, 6 via GUM | | UA184/174 | 10:55pm | 8:11am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM | |
| UA156/193 | 6:20pm | 11:50pm | 2 via GUM-ROR | | | | | | |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

| STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC. | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| SAIPAN TO ROTA | | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | |
| 1301 | 7:30AM | 8:00AM | Daily | 1203 9:00AM 9:15AM Daily |
| 1302 | 11:30AM | 12:00PM | Daily | 1204 10:00AM 10:15AM Daily |
| 1303 | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | Daily | 1205 11:00AM 11:15AM Daily |
| ROTA TO SAIPAN | | | | 1206 12:00PM 12:15PM Daily |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | 1207 1:00PM 1:15PM Daily |
| 3101 | 8:15AM | 8:45AM | Daily | 1208 2:00PM 2:15PM Daily |
| 3102 | 1:45PM | 2:15PM | Daily | 1209 3:00PM 3:15PM Daily |
| 3103 | 4:45PM | 5:15PM | Daily | 1210 4:00PM 4:15PM Daily |
| ROTA TO GUAM | | | | 1211 5:00PM 5:15PM Daily |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | 1212 6:00PM 6:15PM Daily |
| 3401 | 12:15PM | 12:45PM | Daily | |
| GUAM TO ROTA | | | | TINIAN TO SAIPAN |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | FLIGHT # DEPARTURE ARRIVAL FREQUENCY |
| 4301 | 1:00PM | 1:30PM | Daily | 2102 7:30AM 7:45AM Daily |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN | | | | 2103 8:30AM 8:45AM Daily |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | 2104 9:30AM 9:45AM Daily |
| 1201 | 7:00AM | 7:15AM | Daily | 2105 10:30AM 10:45AM Daily |
| 1202 | 8:00AM | 8:15AM | Daily | 2106 11:30AM 11:45AM Daily |

Business

Chinese factories face new threat: US anti-virus controls

BEIJING (AP)—Factories in China, struggling to reopen after the coronavirus shut down the economy, face a new threat from U.S. anti-disease controls that might disrupt the flow of microchips and other components they need.

The shock threatens to set back the ruling Communist Party's efforts to revive the world's second-largest economy after it declared victory over the outbreak. It would add to pressures on global business activity as Western countries close workplaces, limit travel and tell consumers to stay home.

Chinese manufacturers assemble more than 80% of smartphones for Apple, Samsung and other brands, half of the world's personal computers and a big share of home appliances and other goods. But they need U.S. processor chips and other high-value components.

It isn't clear how U.S. anti-coronavirus curbs might affect trade. Controls so far apply to travelers, not goods. American factories are operating, but the National Federation of Independent Business

says 39% of 300 companies it surveyed already were suffering supply disruptions.

"A sustained disruption of activity in the U.S. will likely lead to disruptions to manufacturing activity in China," said Darren Tay, a country risk analyst for Fitch Solutions, in an email.

Beijing is easing controls that left city streets empty and silent and sent shock waves through the global economy. Manufacturers are rebuilding supply chains—networks of thousands of providers of auto parts, microchips and other components.

Officials say steel makers and other state-owned industries are almost back to normal. But conditions are more precarious for small, private companies that are China's economic engine and make clothes, toys and other consumer goods. Many are running at a fraction of normal levels or are closed due to a lack of materials and employees.

One in six companies that responded to a March 9-14 survey has run out of components and others are running low, the American Chamber of

Commerce in South China said in a report Wednesday.

The United States, Europe and other Asian countries accounted for 18% of shortages, the chamber said. It said supply chains from the United States are suffering the second-biggest disruption after those in China.

Just over half the 237 companies surveyed were American and three-quarters were manufacturers. All reported "some impact" due to supply disruptions due to the outbreak.

"Many of the companies reported a great deal of their needed items regularly being shipped from Japan, South Korea, Italy and the U.S.—countries which are now under pressure from the outbreak," said the chamber report.

Economists who have slashed forecasts of this year's global economic growth cite disruption to Chinese and U.S. manufacturing as one reason.

The predicament highlights the risks of manufacturing strategies that cut costs by using far-flung networks of suppliers and factories across multiple countries.

Contagion of fear, uncertainty infect financial markets

The rapidly deteriorating health of the financial markets is being driven by a contagion of fear and uncertainty about a global pandemic that's infecting the economy in ways that seemed unfathomable just a month ago.

It almost seems like a distant memory now, but shortly after the President Day's holiday weekend the benchmark S&P 500 index closed at a record high, buoyed by another round of impressive quarterly corporate profits that had convinced investors the damage caused by a fast-spreading coronavirus in China would cause relatively little damage. Anyone who glanced at their 401(k) statements then probably at least smiled and may have even flirted with the idea of retiring a little early.

Now, those thoughts seem like pipe dreams as people mostly wonder if and when life will be normal again during a week that has seen most commerce shut down in Silicon Valley — a vital cog in the economy — against the backdrop of canceled St. Patrick's Day traditions throughout the world.

Most experts now believe a U.S. recession is inevitable, with its severity the only question left to be determined. "It's a fait accompli," said Michael Yoshikami, CEO of Destina-

tion Wealth Management in Walnut Creek, Calif.

No wonder the S&P 500 now stands roughly 30% below its peak after a mind-boggling four weeks like no other in the financial markets. The pummeling would have been even worse if not for several robust, although short-lived, rallies that were fueled by hopes that the government might come up with a financial antidote that would prevent the fallout from the coronavirus outbreak from becoming as bad as it is now.

The market's wild swings have been exacerbated by the computerized trading programs that hedge funds create to wager on the financial market's up and downs. Those algorithms, coupled with the lightning speed of today's computer programs, can vastly accelerate the momentum of selling frenzies, as well as seemingly irrational buying binges.

Human behavior, though, is more predictable. Just as people are hoarding non-perishable groceries, hand sanitizers and other goods they need while being forced to stay at home to stem the spread of the COVID-19 disease, investors

have been fleeing the stock market as they build stockpiles of cash in conservative investments viewed as safe havens in times of financial turmoil.

"There are some parallels between having plenty of cash and plenty of toilet paper right now," said Richard Weiss, chief investment officer at American Century Investments.

On Wednesday, that relationship fell apart too, as investors even sold safe haven assets to raise cash.

The good news is that the stock market remains in far better shape than it was at the depths of the Great Recession — a scary crisis that was triggered by reckless home lending practices. Despite the market's startling fall, the S&P 500 is still nearly worth four times higher than it was at its low point 11 years ago during the Great Recession.

The bad news is the same government toolbox that helped resuscitate the economy back then may not prove to be a cure for the economic ills caused by the biggest pandemic in a century. In the Great Recession, central bank's quickly dropped short-term interest rates to record lows and drove down the cost of money in other ways, such as buying bonds in record amounts.

That helped create a virtuous cycle as consumers spent more and employers steadily expanded their payrolls as their profits rose as more people got jobs.

United Airlines cuts flights further

GUAM—United Airlines announced that it will be making further adjustments to its Guam flight schedules due to the recent government mandates designed to quell the COVID-19 outbreak on the island. The adjusted schedule will be effective beginning March 22 and will remain in place through May 3.

The revised Guam flight schedules for the affected routes are outlined below:

| Guam (GUM) – Narita, Japan (NRT) – March 22 – May 3, 2020 | | | | |
|---|--------|------------|--|----------|
| Airport (from/to) | | Flight No. | Frequency | Aircraft |
| Guam | Narita | UA196 | Daily, except 4/6, 4/9, 4/12, 4/15, 4/18, 4/21, 4/24, 4/27, 4/30 | B737 |
| Narita | Guam | UA197 | Daily, except 4/6, 4/9, 4/12, 4/15, 4/18, 4/21, 4/24, 4/27, 4/30 | B737 |

| Guam (GUM) – Nagoya, Japan (NGO) – Effective March 22 – May 3, 2020 | | | | |
|---|--------|------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Airport (from/to) | | Flight No. | Frequency | Aircraft |
| Guam | Nagoya | UA 137 | Daily (to be suspended eff. 3/29) | B737 |
| Nagoya | Guam | UA 136 | Daily (to be suspended eff. 3/29) | B737 |

| Guam (GUM) – Osaka, Japan (KIX) – Effective March 22 – May 3, 2020 | | | | |
|--|-------|------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Airport (from/to) | | Flight No. | Frequency | Aircraft |
| Guam | Osaka | UA 151 | Daily (to be suspended eff. 3/30) | B737 |
| | | UA177 | Tue., Thu., Sat. until 3/28. & 5/2 | |
| Osaka | Guam | UA 150 | Daily (to be suspended eff. 3/30) | B737 |
| | | UA178 | Tue., Thu., Sat. until 3/28 & 5/2 | |

| Guam (GUM) – Koror, Palau (ROR) – Effective March 22 – May 3, 2020 | | | | |
|--|-------|------------|-----------|----------|
| Airport (from/to) | | Flight No. | Frequency | Aircraft |
| Guam | Koror | UA 157 | Thurs. | B737 |
| Koror | Guam | UA 158 | Fri. | B737 |

| Guam (GUM) – Saipan (SPN) – Effective March 22 – May 3, 2020 | | | | |
|--|--------|------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Airport (from/to) | | Flight No. | Frequency | Aircraft |
| Guam | Saipan | UA 174 | Mon., Thurs., Sat. Sun. | B737 |
| Saipan | Guam | UA 117 | Mon., Thurs., Sat. Sun. | B737 |

| Island Hopper – Effective March 22 – May 3, 2020 | | | | |
|--|----------|------------|-----------|----------|
| Airport (from/to) | | Flight No. | Frequency | Aircraft |
| Guam | Honolulu | UA 155 | Mondays | B737 |
| Guam | Pohnpei | UA176 | Saturdays | B737 |
| Honolulu | Guam | UA 154 | Mondays | B737 |
| Pohnpei | Guam | UA95 | Sundays | B737 |

United announced the following suspended flights beginning on March 22:

■ Narita: Two of the three daily flights will be suspended – UA 828/ UA 827 through

■ May 2 and UA 873/ UA 874 through May 3.

■ Nagoya: Beginning on March 29, all Nagoya flights will be suspended through May 3.

■ Osaka: Beginning on March 30, all Osaka flights will be suspended through May 3.

■ Fukuoka: All Fukuoka flights will be suspended through May 3.

■ Manila: Beginning on March 22, all flights will be suspended through May 3. This includes the Manila to Koror segment.

■ Yap: The flight to Yap will operate on Sundays through May 3.

Given the high level of uncertainty regarding travel, United is working to give customers more flexibility by

waiving change fees for any booking – domestic or international – made between March 3 and March 31. The waiver applies to all tickets, all fare types, all destinations, all points-of-sale and all travel dates available for sale. For more information visit <https://www.united.com/ual/en/us/fly/travel/notices.html>. United customers can contact united.com, United reservations at 1-800-UNITED-1 (1-800-864-8331), their travel agent, or United's City Ticket Office in Guam for assistance with their flights.

United continues to strengthen its commitment to its customers, looking at every aspect of its business to ensure that the carrier keeps customers' best interests at the heart of its service. In addition to today's announcement, United recently:

■ Announced that MileagePlus award miles will never expire United Airlines Announces Further Adjustments to Guam Flight

Schedules Due to New Government Mandates

■ Committed \$40 million toward a new investment initiative focused on accelerating the development of sustainable aviation fuels and other decarbonization technologies

■ Established Miles on a Mission, a first-of-its-kind crowdsourcing platform which gives customers a simple way to donate miles to non-profit organizations and charities in need of air travel

■ Launched Connection-Saver, a digital tool dedicated to improving the experience for customers with connecting flights

■ Instituted PlusPoints, new upgrade benefits for MileagePlus Premier members

■ Gave Economy customers a choice of complimentary snacks on domestic flights

■ Made DIRECTV free for every customer on more than 200 aircraft (PR)

Nation

Trump invokes emergency authority

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—President Donald Trump invoked emergency authority to marshal industry to fight the coronavirus, as the economic fallout from the pandemic mounted Wednesday with major U.S. auto manufacturers saying they are shutting down their North American factories.

The announcements came hours before China said the former virus epicenter of Wuhan and its surrounding province had reported no new cases, a dramatic development in the city overwhelmed by thousands of new patients each day when the outbreak was peaking there last month.

On a day of head-spinning developments:

■ Stocks tumbled again on Wall Street on fears of a prolonged recession, falling so fast they triggered another automatic trading halt. The Dow Jones Industrial Average shed more than 1,300 points, or over 6%, and has now lost nearly all of the big gains it had posted since Trump's inauguration. Oil dropped below \$21 per barrel for the first time since 2002.

■ More borders slammed shut across Europe and North America, with the U.S. and Canada closing their boundaries to all but essential travel and Trump saying he plans to assert extraordinary powers to immediately turn back to Mexico anyone who crosses over the southern border illegally.

■ The White House pressed Congress to swiftly pass a potentially \$1 trillion rescue package to prop up the economy and speed relief checks to Americans in a



AP
President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with tourism industry executives about the coronavirus, in the Cabinet Room of the White House, Tuesday, March 17, 2020, in Washington.

mild or moderate symptoms such as fever and cough in most cases. Severe illness is more likely in the elderly and those with existing health problems.

Around the globe, governments took increasingly drastic measures to fight the epidemic and the threat of a recession, in some cases using emergency powers.

California's governor warned that martial law could be imposed. The mayor of New York said the city's 8.6 million residents should be prepared for a lockdown. The U.S. Census Bureau suspended field operations for two weeks, soon after it began its once-a-decade count of American people.

matter of weeks.

Calling himself a "wartime president," Trump invoked the Defense Production Act of 1950 to steer industrial output and overcome shortages of face masks, ventilators and other supplies as hospitals brace for an expected onslaught of cases.

The Korean War-era law gives the president extraordinary authority to compel industries to expand production and turn out vital materials. It was most recently used after the 2017 Puerto Rico hurricane to speed up contracts for food and other necessities.

"It's a war," Trump said, likening the coronavirus fight to

measures taken during World War II and warning of national sacrifices ahead.

China's health ministry said Thursday that all 34 of its new cases were in people arriving from abroad. Eight new deaths were reported, all in Wuhan, where the first cases of COVID-19 were reported in December and which remains under the quarantine control measures imposed weeks ago to stop its spread.

The virus has since infected more than 217,000 people worldwide and killed over 8,700, mostly in China, Italy and Iran. The United Nations warned that the crisis could

lead to the loss of nearly 25 million jobs around the world.

Though China still has the largest number of cases, most of its patients have recovered. China even sent medical supplies to hard-hit France, returning a favor done by the French weeks ago.

But in a grim illustration of the pandemic's shift, deaths in Italy were nearing China's toll. Italy had more than 2,900 dead after a record one-day total of 475; China's overall toll was around 3,200. Iran has also been hit hard, with more than 1,100 deaths.

More than 83,000 people overall have recovered from the virus, which causes only

US Census Bureau suspends field operations on virus concerns

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A week after starting its 2020 count for most of the U.S., the Census Bureau on Wednesday suspended field operations for two weeks out of concern about the health and safety of its workers and the U.S. public from the novel coronavirus.

Census Bureau officials said they were continuing to monitor all operations related to the once-a-decade head count amid the global pandemic. As of Wednesday, 11 million households had answered the census questions.

Most census workers won't head into the field until May, when they'll knock on the doors of homes that haven't turned in their questionnaires. But some workers are already in the field. They were

primarily dropping off paper questionnaires at places with no fixed addresses and large numbers of seasonal workers, or preparing for counts in a few weeks of the homeless and people who live in group housing such as college dorms, nursing homes and prisons.

The Census Bureau is aiming to hire as many as 500,000 workers for the 2020 census, and so far has 31,000 workers on the payroll.

Census historian Margo Anderson called the move unprecedented.

"I don't think I've ever heard of such a suspension, nationwide," said Anderson, a history professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. "We're in uncharted ter-

ritory on the census, as well as everything else since last Friday."

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover from the virus.

The 2020 census started for most of the U.S. last week when notifications started being mailed out and its self-response website went live. The head count officially kicked off in January in remote Alaska villages that are difficult to reach.

This is the first decennial census that has encouraged most people to answer the

questionnaire online, although respondents can also answer by telephone or mailing back a form. The Census Bureau is hoping a strong self-response rate will decrease the need for census takers to knock on doors for face-to-face interviews this summer.

"The public is strongly encouraged to respond to the 2020 Census online using a desktop computer, laptop, smartphone, or tablet, and can also respond by phone or mail," the Census Bureau said in a statement.

In a statement, the chairwoman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform said lawmakers were monitoring the suspension of field operations and encouraging people to self-respond.

Coronavirus baby boom another curve that could be flattened

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Millions of romantic partners, cooped up together for weeks or months, with little to do other than watch reruns and play board games. A recipe for a baby boom, right?

Not so fast, say America's family planning providers. They're fine with folks dimming the lights, but they also want to dim any hopes of a population spike.

In chilly and home-bound Maine, for example, one of the state's key providers of family planning services is taking steps to make sure patients don't see an interruption in birth control prescriptions while much of the state enters shut-down mode because of the coronavirus pandemic. That includes extending birth control services for three months, the nonprofit Maine Family Planning said.

Other family planning nonprofits elsewhere across the country are taking similar steps, Maine Family Planning vice president of program services Evelyn Kieltyka said.

"We wanted to accommodate our patients. For women and families, there's already enough anxiety, so the idea that you can't get access to birth control is just

too much," he said.

Unexpected population-wide stretches of isolation at home sometimes results in a boom in births nine months later. Such a bump happened in Maine and New Hampshire after the 1998 ice storm that shut down parts of the Northeast.

Similar baby bumps have happened after events such as hurricanes that required partners to remain cooped up alone for long stretches of time.

Planned Parenthood, the biggest provider of reproductive health services in the country, is also doing more to make sure access to birth control is easy amid the pandemic. The organization on Wednesday encouraged patients to make use of PP-Direct, an app that connects them to a provider via video so they can get birth control pills without setting foot outside. The app is available in more than two dozen states.

"We remain committed to delivering compassionate, non-judgmental reproductive and sexual health care to all who need it while we take proactive measures to stay as far ahead of COVID-19 as possible," said Meagan Gallagher, chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England.

Asia

NKorea's Kim admits troubled medical system amid virus fears

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un acknowledged that his country lacks modern medical facilities and called for urgent improvements, state media said Wednesday, in a rare assessment of the North's health care system that comes amid worries about the coronavirus in the impoverished country.

Outside experts say a coronavirus epidemic in the North could be devastating due its chronic lack of medical supplies and outdated health care infrastructure. Kim's comments were made during a ceremony Tuesday marking the start of construction on a new hospital.

North Korea has engaged in an intense campaign to guard against the new virus, though it has steadfastly maintained that no one has been sickened, a claim many foreign experts doubt.

During a groundbreaking ceremony for a "modern general hospital" in Pyongyang, the capital, Kim said it's "crucial" for the state's efforts to be directed "to prop up the field of public health," according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA. It cited Kim as saying the construction must be completed before October's 75th founding anniversary of the ruling Workers' Party.

Kim said the ruling party decided on building the hos-



AP
In this Tuesday, March 17, 2020, photo provided on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, attends the ground-breaking ceremony of a general hospital in Pyongyang in North Korea.

pital during a key party meeting in late December and was working to have it finished "in the shortest time." In an unusual admission on a troubled state system, Kim also said, "Frankly speaking, our party ... criticized in a heart-aching manner the fact that there is not a modern medical and health care facility even in our capital city," according to KCNA.

Kim appears to be using the hospital construction to burnish his image as a leader car-

ing about public livelihoods at a time when his country is grappling with international sanctions amid stalled nuclear diplomacy with the United States, said Ahn Kyung-su, head of the Seoul-based private Research Center of DPRK Health and Welfare.

He said North Korea has several modern general hospitals in Pyongyang but an analysis of construction drawings for the new hospital shown

in KCNA photos suggested it would be the most sophisticated hospital in North Korea when it's built.

In a report to the World Health Organization, North Korea said it had 135 general and other major hospitals throughout the country as of 2017, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry.

Some observers said North Korea may have hurried the hospital's construc-

tion since China reported the first cases of the new disease in December.

While the new coronavirus can be deadly, particularly for the elderly and people with other health problems, for most people it causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. Some feel no symptoms at all and the vast majority of people recover.

Kim's attendance at the hos-

pital ceremony also confirmed that he returned to Pyongyang after supervising artillery firing exercises on North Korea's east coast. His visits to the rural coastal areas had prompted outside speculation that he may have been trying to avoid the virus.

"North Korea clearly stated the date for the groundbreaking ceremony was March 17, and that clearly showed Chairman Kim Jong Un is back to Pyongyang and is governing state affairs normally," said Kim Dong-yub, an analyst at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies.

North Korea banned foreign tourists, delayed the school year and quarantined hundreds of foreigners and thousands of locals to avoid the virus that has spread worldwide. Last week, KCNA described authorities inspecting and disinfecting vehicles, vessels and goods at border areas and ports and said some imports remained sealed for 10 days before being handed over to recipients.

Lack of clean water for India's poor spawns virus concerns

NEW DELHI (AP)—Dharam Singh Rajput can't afford to buy hand sanitizer, which could help ward off transmission of the coronavirus in his community.

The Rajput family could opt for something more basic—soap and water—to achieve hand hygiene. But sometimes there is no clean running water in their neighborhood, which sits next to open sewage canals and mounds of garbage in the heart of New Delhi, India's capital. "The kind of water we have access to has the potential to cause more diseases instead of warding off the virus if we use it to wash our hands," Rajput said.

Experts say keeping hands clean is one of the easiest and best ways to prevent transmission of the new coronavirus, in addition to social distancing. But for India's homeless and urban poor who live in thousands of slums across major cities and towns, maintaining good hygiene can be nearly impossible.

About 160 million—more than the population of Russia—

of India's 1.3 billion people don't have access to clean water.

That could leave impoverished Indians like Rajput and his family at risk during the virus outbreak.

"It could prove disastrous for people who don't have access to clean water," said Samrat Basak, the director of the World Resource Institute's Urban Water Program in India. With India being the world's second-most populous country, and having weak health care facilities and growing concerns that there may be an undetected communal spread of the virus, the risks associated with the lack of clean water aren't being overstated. UNICEF said last week that almost 20% of urban Indians do not have facilities with water and soap at home. What could make things worse, experts say, is that social distancing is nearly impossible in many Indian cities that are among the world's most densely populated areas. So far, the government has apparently been able to keep a lid on community transmis-

sion of the virus. Authorities have confirmed 147 cases and three deaths, all linked to foreign travel or direct contact with someone who caught the disease abroad.

While the coronavirus can be deadly, particularly for the elderly and people with other health problems, for most people it causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. Some feel no symptoms at all and the vast majority of people recover.

India's government has made fervent appeals to the public to practice social distancing and good hand hygiene. India also was one of the first countries to essentially shut its borders and deny entry to all but a select few foreigners. But in a country as big as India, community transmission is all but inevitable, experts say.

"Clean water is the first line of defense," said V.K. Madhavan, India chief executive at WaterAid, a global advocacy group for water and sanitation. "If there is no access to clean water, the situation could worsen."

India's clean water problem isn't new.

Hundreds of thousands of people wait in line every day to fill buckets from government water trucks. Hospitals and schools struggle with clean water supplies. People are forced to wash utensils and clothes in dirty water.

About 600 million Indians face acute water shortages, according to government think tank NITI Aayog.

The water crisis hits the poor particularly hard since wealthy people can pay for water from private sources that those living in slums can't afford.

The mortality rate due to inadequate or unsafe water is also high. About 200,000 people die each year in India from diseases related to unclean water. Insufficient water also leads to food insecurity.

"When clean drinking water runs out, people will have no choice but to rely on unsafe water," said Dr. Anant Bhan, a global health researcher. "It could expose India's huge population to extreme vulnerability."

Philippines declares cease-fire with rebels to fight virus

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte declared a unilateral cease-fire with communist guerrillas on Wednesday to focus on fighting the coronavirus outbreak that prompted him to place the northern third of the country under quarantine.

Duterte ordered the military and police to stop offensives against New People's Army guerrillas during the cease-fire, which is to start Thursday and end April 15.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Ano ordered the national police to shift to a defensive posture. He urged the Marxist guerrillas to respond with their own cease-fire.

"We call on them to be a part of the solution in fighting our common enemy, the coronavirus," Ano said in a statement.

"Through this cease-fire, the Philippine government

aspires that the swift provision of public health assistance goes unimpeded with the movement of health workers and medical supplies to communities," presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said.

Duterte launched peace talks with the rebels when he took office in mid-2016. But the negotiations, brokered by the Netherlands, eventually bogged down with both sides accusing the other of continuing to carry out attacks.

Although he has often lashed out at the rebels, Duterte has repeatedly given signs that he is open to resuming negotiations with the rural-based insurgents, estimated by the military to number less than 5,000 nationwide.

The insurgency has raged for more than half a century, making it one of Asia's longest-running rebellions.

World

Africa should ‘prepare for the worst’ with virus, WHO says

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Africa should “prepare for the worst” as the coronavirus begins to spread locally, the World Health Organization’s director-general said Wednesday, while South Africa became the continent’s new focus of concern as cases nearly doubled to 116 from two days before.

South Africa’s health minister, Zweli Mkhize, this week called that kind of rate “explosive” in the country with the most cases in sub-Saharan Africa. Fourteen of the latest cases were from local trans-

mission—and six were in children under 10.

Though the pandemic is in its early days on the continent, health experts have warned that even facilities in Africa’s richest nation could be overwhelmed by the virus’ spread.

“I think Africa should wake up,” said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who comes from Ethiopia.

Crowded conditions in poor areas could lead to even faster transmission, experts say. Countless South Africans con-

tinue to pack into commuter trains and minivan taxis. But the annual pilgrimage of the Zion Christian Church, which attracts about 3 million people, was cancelled.

“We have low-income workers who cannot afford to self-isolate or take time off work,” said public health expert Dr. Atiya Mosam, who also worried about the large population without clean water or sanitation or vulnerable from HIV or tuberculosis.

Others asked how a person can self-quarantine in a

crowded slum. The continent has several of the world’s fastest-growing cities.

Despite widespread calls for “social distancing,” a cashier at a popular pharmacy in Johannesburg confided that some customers found it rude when she suggested they swipe their payment cards themselves to limit contact. Elsewhere in the store a shopper determinedly filled a cardboard box with “anti-germ” soap, and hand sanitizer was out of stock despite calls to stop panic buying.

Also Wednesday, sub-Saharan Africa saw its second death from COVID-19, in Burkina Faso, which has one of the continent’s highest number of cases but has not imposed measures such as closing borders or banning religious services. Sudan previously reported a death.

In Kenya, police said a man accused of having the coronavirus was beaten to death. A police report obtained by The Associated Press said the man was returning home from a night out Wednesday when a group of youth approached and “took advantage of his drunkenness.”

In Ethiopia, the U.S. Embassy noted a rise in anti-foreigner sentiment after cases emerged there. “Reports indicate that foreigners have been attacked with stones, denied transportation services, being spat on, chased on foot, and been accused of being infected with COVID-19,” a security alert said.

Africa’s most populous country, Nigeria, announced restrictions on the entry of travelers from countries with more than 1,000 coronavirus cases, including China and the U.S., and suspended visas on

arrival for their citizens.

Nigeria has had eight cases of the virus, all in people recently arrived from abroad—one of the latest a 6-week-old baby. The country said one of the new patients, an American, had entered via a land border, a first.

Three other African nations announced their first virus cases: Gambia, Zambia and Djibouti. Thirty-three of Africa’s 54 countries now have cases, with a total of at least 529 mid-day Wednesday.

Somalia, which announced its first case this week, closed schools and universities for two weeks and warned against public gatherings as the country with one of Africa’s weakest health systems tries to stop the virus’ spread.

“This is really a very scary moment,” said Hassan Kafi, a medical student in the capital, Mogadishu. The country has suffered from nearly three decades of conflict.

Uganda, which has no cases, banned travel to the worst-affected countries. It also suspended religious gatherings and restricted the number of people at weddings to 10 in a country known for mass ceremonies.



AP

A Somali man wears a surgical mask and gloves on the street after the government announced the closure of schools and universities and banned large gatherings, following the announcement on Monday of the country’s first case of the new coronavirus, in the capital Mogadishu, Somalia Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

German leader calls coronavirus biggest challenge since WWII

BERLIN (AP)—Germany has not faced a challenge like the new coronavirus outbreak since World War II and every person in the country must help protect those most vulnerable to illness, Chancellor Angela Merkel said Wednesday night in her first direct televised address to the nation other than her annual New Year’s speech.

Merkel, a physicist by training, who has led Germany for over 14 years, said that while researchers are racing to develop a vaccine to prevent infections and medications to treat COVID-19, slowing the spread of the virus is currently the only way to minimize the number of people who get sick.

“Let me tell you: This is serious. Take it seriously, too,” Merkel said in a speech aired by several public and private TV stations.

“Germany has an excellent health system, perhaps one of the best in the world,” she said. “But our hospitals, too, would be completely overwhelmed if too many patients would be delivered in too short a time.”

Germany had 11,973 confirmed virus cases as of Wednesday evening, the fifth-highest number in the world, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Among all the people with the virus in the country, 28 have died, the university’s tally said.

Those patients are not just abstract statistics but, “a father or a grandfather, a mother or a grandmother, a partner. They are human beings,” the chancellor said. “And we are a community in which every life, every human being, counts.”

While updating worldwide infections to more than 214,000 since the new virus

emerged, Johns Hopkins University said more than 82,000 people have recovered.

COVID-19 respiratory illness causes only mild or moderate symptoms such as fever and cough in most people, with severe cases more likely in the elderly and those with existing health problems.

Earlier Wednesday, the German government said it had arranged in coordination with state officials to increase hospital capacities, especially for patients requiring intensive care. The government also directed hospitals to check if discarded beds and medical devices could be put back into service, saying experts were predicting the number of cases to rise quickly in coming weeks.

In her speech, Merkel called on everyone in the country of 83 million to stay home and to

practice social distancing when they must go out despite the natural instinct to want to come together during times of worry.

“I appeal to you: Please obey the rules, which will now be valid for the coming times,” Merkel said. “We as a government will constantly check what needs to be corrected but also, what perhaps still needs to be done.”

Germany’s Interior Ministry said Wednesday night that restrictions on entering the country were being immediately expanded to include checks of passengers flying in from Italy, Austria, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Denmark and Switzerland.

Cross-border commuters will need to carry forms documenting their need to travel for work, and others should avoid coming to Germany, the Interior Ministry said.

Venezuela hospital makes its own masks to confront the new virus

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Medical supplies of almost any sort are in short supply in Venezuela, so workers at a maternity hospital in Caracas are racing to confront the rapidly spreading coronavirus by making surgical masks, one by one.

Five workers have been holed up for days in the basement of the Concepcion Palacios hospital, hunched over sewing machines and transforming disposable blue paper sheets into masks for their 2,800 coworkers.

As of Tuesday, they had managed to turn out about 1,000 of the hand-sewn masks.

“They don’t move from those machines,” said supervisor Silvia Bolivar, one of the people who organized the project. “They eat and rest there until they get up in the evening to leave.”

She said other hospitals have begun a similar effort to help fight the virus. It causes only mild to moderate symptoms, such as a fever or cough, for most patients, but can be severe for some people, especially older adults and those with health problems.

Venezuela recorded its

first 36 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in less than a week as of Wednesday, and most health experts say the nation—already struggling with an economic crisis and widespread shortages, isn’t ready for what’s to come.

Hospitals are short of masks, gloves, medicines and sometimes even running water, according to health workers.

“We should have more safety, appropriate face masks, but we’re in this emergency,” said one of the workers, Yordania Mata, 34, as she took a break to rest her hands.

President Nicolás Maduro on Monday ordered the entire nation to stay home under a quarantine aimed at cutting off the spread of the new virus, calling it a “drastic and necessary measure.”

Maduro blames much of the problem on U.S. sanctions, though shortages began long before those were imposed.

Facing the new pandemic, he said that “if some problem arises in some hospital, we have to resolve it. We don’t have to try to turn it into a political issue but in cooperation among all.”

Off The Wall

Cheap fares luring travelers to fly despite pandemic

By **RUSS BYNUM**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

With the coronavirus pandemic escalating in the U.S. and overseas, Dylcia

McBlackwell couldn't justify taking a single spring vacation. Air fares were so cheap, she decided to book three.

Now the 39-year-old food service worker from Chicago

has tickets to fly to Denver to visit friends next month followed by a May trip to Charleston, South Carolina. After that, she's booked a flight to Costa Rica. All for a combined total of \$435 for trips that might normally cost \$700 or more.

"You have just one life to live," said McBlackwell, who plans to bring wipes to disinfect the tray tables in front of her airplane seats, and perhaps her own snacks. "Are you going to spend it sitting in your house scared? I'd rather be out enjoying it."

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and

people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover.

Regardless, airlines are seeing bookings plummet and cancellations soar as fear of infection causes many Americans to avoid flying. Travel to the U.S. has been barred from most of Europe, China and Iran. Domestically, business conferences, sporting events, music festivals and other large public gatherings have been scrapped or postponed.

Airlines have been slashing flight schedules, especially on international routes, to cope with downward-spiraling demand from fearful leisure cus-

tomers and a slowdown in business travel. One industry trade group has warned the pandemic could cost airlines worldwide up to \$113 billion in revenue.

The proliferation of empty airline seats has some travelers making spur-of-the-moment ticket purchases to take advantage of steeply discounted prices.

"Travel is one of my favorite things to do and I'm always looking at flights to different places," said Nick Williams of Muncie, Indiana. "I have never seen flights this cheap before."

During his recent spring break, the 22-year-old Ball State University student paid

\$110 round trip to visit friends in Orlando, Florida. As soon as he returned to Indiana, he spotted a weekend fare back to Orlando for just \$65.

"I was in Muncie for less than 48 hours," said Williams, who hopped right back onto a plane to Florida. "I felt a little crazy doing it. But those opportunities don't always arise."

Williams isn't oblivious to the coronavirus. Since his Florida trips, Ball State has canceled in-person classes for the rest of the spring semester. Courses will still be held online, but Williams said the campus seems eerily quiet. Unafraid to fly domestically, he's ruled out overseas trips for now.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man runs toilet paper exchange on California street corner

ENCINITAS, Calif. (AP)—Disturbed by empty store shelves and reports of hoarding during the coronavirus crisis, a man stood on a Southern California street corner and held up a homemade cardboard sign with a simple request: "Share your toilet paper." Jonny Blue told the San Diego Union-Tribune on Saturday that the response to his impromptu toilet paper exchange in Encinitas was immediate and positive. Drivers honked horns in support and stopped to drop off rolls of toilet paper. Just as quickly, Blue would hand rolls to those in need. Blue, a physical therapist, said he plans to be out on the corner again Sunday to "encourage people to be better" amid the global pandemic. Blue gave a few rolls to a grateful motorist who said he came up empty at several stores.

New Mexico man says he unknowingly stole TVs while drunk

GALLUP, N.M. (AP)—A New Mexico man is facing charges after he told police he unknowingly stole two televisions while drunk. The Gallup Independent reports Sage Aaron Cummins was arrested last week shortly following his arrival to the victim's apartment to return the TVs. According to Gallup police, an officer was investigating a burglary report when Cummins approached him and admitted he had stolen the televisions from the victim's home. Cummins told police he was "very intoxicated" when he entered the residence. A police report says Cummins said he only remembered knocking on the door and, when it was apparent that no one was home, he entered the residence. Cummins says he did not remember what happened after that. "He woke up at 8:30 a.m. the next day and noticed he had two TV's in his room," the police report says. Cummins was informed two days later who the televisions belonged to by a mutual friend of his and the victim. Cummins told police "he wanted to make things right and return the stolen items," according to a

police report. The 24-year-old Cummins was arrested and charged with receiving stolen property. He was released on an unsecured bond of \$1,500. It was not known if he had an attorney.

Simba's going home: Florida dog found way up in Michigan

MOUNT MORRIS TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—A dog from Florida, missing for more than two months, has been found 1,400 miles (2,253 kilometers) away in Michigan. Kris Gibson discovered Simba last week standing at her fence in Mount Morris Township, north of Flint. She lured him with a snack and took him to an animal clinic, which confirmed the dog's identity through his microchip. "Usually when I find dogs, they never ever have a chip. I was pretty shocked," Gibson told MLive.com. Cassidy Gruno, a veterinary assistant at Mayfair Animal Hospital, believes the dog, a Canary mastiff, might have been abducted with the intent of selling him. Simba is from Miami. "They are thousand-dollar dogs," Gruno said. "The cheapest one around here was \$1,800." Gibson was making arrangements to return Simba to Florida.

North Carolina police: Suspects chain, try to drag away ATM

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)—Authorities in North Carolina are searching for at least two suspects who were captured chaining an ATM to a stolen pickup truck and attempting to drag it away, according to officials. Chapel Hill police officers responded to a Bank of America branch near the University of North Carolina early Sunday where they found the fallen ATM damaged, town officials said in a statement. Police said it didn't appear any money was taken. At least one suspect could be seen in security images wearing a mask and carrying a crowbar, WNCN-TV reported. The white work truck was stolen from a construction site nearby, Chapel Hill officials said in the statement. The truck was marked with the words NYC, LLC Underground Construction, police said.

Public debut without public for polar bear cubs at Dutch zoo



In this image released by Ouwehands Zoo Rhenen on Wednesday March 18, 2020, a pair of polar bear twins make their public debut at a Dutch zoo, without public because of coronavirus restrictions.

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—A pair of twin polar bear cubs have made their public debut at a Dutch zoo—but without the public because of coronavirus restrictions.

There was no sign of social distancing between the three-and-a-half-month-old cubs and their mother as they cau-

tiously ventured out of the maternity den at the Ouwehands Zoo on Wednesday morning.

The twins stuck close to their mother, called Freedom, as they explored their outdoor enclosure for the first time since they were born on Nov. 27.

In video released by the zoo,

Freedom kept a close eye on her cubs and gently licked the head of one as it suckled.

The cubs are the product of a European breeding program intended to help preserve the endangered species.

The gender of the cubs is not yet known. Once that is established, likely after they take

their first swim, the zoo has two male names -- Yuku and Atlas -- and two female names -- Yura and Nova -- ready.

The Ouwehands Zoo in the central town of Rhenen has been forced to close its doors by a government ban, in force until at least April 6, on gatherings of more than 100 people.

AP

Science & Technology

How to clean the bundle of germs that is your phone

NEW YORK (AP)—You're washing your hands countless times a day to try to ward off the coronavirus.

You should also wash that extension of your hand and breeding ground for germs—your phone. Tests done by scientists show that the virus can live for two to three days on plastic and stainless steel. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends cleaning all “high-touch” surfaces daily, including phones, keyboards and tablet computers.

But cleaning your phone improperly can damage it. You want to avoid getting moisture



inside it or scratching the surface. Don't spray cleaners directly on the phone, don't dunk it in cleaning solutions, don't

spray it with compressed-air devices used to clean keyboards and avoid rubbing it with abrasive materials.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends cleaning all “high-touch” surfaces daily, including phones, keyboards and tablet computers. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Instead, start by turning off the phone and unplugging all cables. Your phone shouldn't be charging as you clean.

You can use Clorox wipes or wipes with 70% alcohol, which you can get at the drugstore, to wipe down your phone. Apple, which has cautioned against using household cleaners on its phones, says to do that

“gently.” AT&T has further recommended wringing out disinfectant wipes before using them on a phone.

You can also use soft cloths to clean the phone, like a microfiber cleaning cloth or the cloths used to clean camera lenses or your glasses. Google says you can dip the cloth in soap and water, as long as you're careful not to get moisture in the phone. AT&T says paper towels work, too. You can spray them with disinfectant. Again, don't spray the phone itself.

Samsung, the world's biggest phone manufacturer,

says it's offering a free phone-sanitizing service involving UV light inside U.S. Samsung stores and service centers. It will expand to other countries in the next few weeks.

The phone-cleaning step is one of many measures public-health authorities are recommending to try to slow the spread of the virus, which has infected 137,000 people worldwide. More than 5,000 have died. Most patients have only mild or moderate symptoms, but the elderly and people with existing health conditions are particularly vulnerable.

Apple brings PC-like trackpad to iPad tablets

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple's new iPad brings PC-like trackpad capabilities for the first time, as the company seeks to make its tablet even more like a laptop computer.

Apple says the trackpad will offer more precision than fingers in selecting text and switching between apps.

Older iPads will also be able to get trackpad capabilities with a free software update, but some will require

keyboards from third parties. For the iPad Pro, Apple is releasing a “magic keyboard” with a trackpad in May starting at \$299. The tablet itself starts at \$799, while an Apple Pencil stylus costs another \$129, bringing the combined cost closer to that of a Mac laptop.

Apple also announced a new MacBook Air computer with a starting price of about \$1,000, down \$100.

The new iPad Pro and MacBook Air will be available in stores starting next week, though Apple's own retail stores in most of the world remain closed because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Apple made no mention of new iPhones in Wednesday's announcements. There's been speculation that Apple is due to refresh its older models as lower-cost alternatives to the newer iPhone 11s.

Sending iPhone pics to a voice-run Echo Show

Q: My sister, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease and doesn't have a phone, recently got an Amazon Echo Show that plays music and shows photos in response to voice commands. Is there a way that I can download pictures from my iPhone or computer to my sister's Echo Show?

A: Get the free Amazon Photos app (formerly called the Prime Photos app) for your iPhone.

Once you have the app, you can use it to upload photos from your iPhone to the online Amazon Photos account that's being used by the Echo Show (such an account is free for storing up to 5 gigabytes of photos.) The photos you upload to the account can then be viewed on the Echo Show. (You can also get the Amazon Photos app for Windows (free, see tinyurl.com/yec3jxva) or Mac (\$60, tinyurl.com/t93qfeu).

To make it work, you will need to obtain the username and password of the Echo Show's Amazon Photos account. Then, after you have uploaded the photos, your sister can access them on the Echo Show via its voice-activated Alexa digital assistant. If your sister says, “Alexa, show my photos,” the photos will be displayed as a slide show (see tinyurl.com/wt9zepv).

You can also limit the slide

TECH Q&A

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



show to only some of the online photos. To do that, put the photos you want your sister to see in a separate folder (called an “album”) in the online account, and give the folder a name, such as “California Trip.” To start a slide show of only those photos, your sister should say, “Alexa, show my California Trip album.”

Update: Last week, I told a user of the Mac Catalina operating system to sync his iPod with his Mac via the Finder app rather than iTunes (see tinyurl.com/we4z94d). Reader Bruce Purnell agreed, but he said it may first be necessary to change the “preferences” in Finder or the “permissions” in the Mac's Home Folder (for details, see tinyurl.com/r7sb8g).

Q: My 6-year-old Mac mini ran fine until I upgraded the operating system to Catalina, or version 10.15.3. Then the Mac began restarting when I tried to shut it down. The Apple Store reloaded the Mac OS twice, but it didn't solve the problem. Diagnostic tests don't show

a hardware problem, but the operating system has suffered a “kernel panic.” What should I do?

A: The operating system upgrade probably caused the shutdown problem. Try these system resets:

—Reset the System Management Controller (SMC) which runs several pieces of hardware, including the Mac's power button. Shut the Mac down, then disconnect the power cord for 15 seconds. Plug the cord back in, wait five seconds and restart the Mac.

—Reset the Nonvolatile Random-Access Memory, or NVRAM (see tinyurl.com/rmvgcd5). It stores several types of Mac data, including details of a recent “kernel panic,” a problem in the main part of the OS that causes a restart. (Read more about kernel panic at tinyurl.com/vr6xmsc).

If the resets don't solve the problem, you can either reinstall the latest operating system (see tinyurl.com/t27smdp) or downgrade to an earlier version (see tinyurl.com/urm5kmw).

Bill Gates says he is stepping down from Microsoft board

REDMOND, Wash. (AP)—Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates said Friday he is stepping down from the company's board to focus on philanthropy.

Gates was Microsoft's CEO until 2000 and since then has gradually scaled back his involvement in the company

he started with Paul Allen in 1975.

He transitioned out of a day-to-day role in Microsoft in 2008 and served as chairman of the board until 2014.

The billionaire announced Friday that he's leaving the Microsoft board entirely as well as his seat on the board of

Berkshire Hathaway, the conglomerate headed by fellow billionaire Warren Buffett.

Gates said he plans to dedicate more time to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He will also remain a technology adviser to Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and other company leaders.



Social interactions are games of reading cues and responding. A smile conveys happiness? A frown, sadness? Facial expressions are unreliable signs of emotion, research indicates.



No A basketball coach shouts encouragement to his players as they pull ahead in a game

Players celebrate a score in a tight basketball game

Sports involve a rapid interplay of excitement, happiness, anger, misery, sympathy ... and real and feigned emotions ... and “game faces”



The physiology of emotion

When you experience emotion, your brain releases peptide hormones that change blood flow and composition. Your face reddens or turns pale.

Culture and emotion

Facial expressions can mean different things in different cultures due to social customs

A rural Chinese woman smiles sedately; her society discourages extravagant smiling

Palestinian men shout angrily at Israeli police in the Gaza Strip



Efforts to develop machines that can interpret facial expressions have not succeeded because emotion does NOT reliably appear in the face

Source: Aleix Martinez of Ohio State University; TNS Photos

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style



Britain's Harry and Meghan the Duke and Duchess of Sussex arrive to attend the annual Commonwealth Day service at Westminster Abbey in London, Monday, March 9, 2020. The annual service, organised by the Royal Commonwealth Society, is the largest annual inter-faith gathering in the United Kingdom.

(AP PHOTO/KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH)

Harry and Meghan urge 'empathy and kindness' against virus

From finding ways to help others cope to sheltering in place to canceling events, here's a look at some of the ways the entertainment industry is reacting to the spread of the coronavirus, which most people recover from but can cause severe illness in the elderly and those with preexisting medical conditions.

Harry and Meghan post hopeful message

Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, are urging people to show "empathy and kindness" in the face of the pandemic.

The couple took to Instagram on Wednesday to post a statement.

"This moment is as true a testament there is to the human spirit. We often speak of compassion. All of our lives are in some way affected by this, uniting each of us globally," they said.

"How we approach each other and our communities with empathy and kindness is indisputably important right now."

Harry and Meghan told followers they'll be sharing trustful news and informing the public of safe and healthy practices.

Starting at the end of this month, the Sussexes will no longer use their royal titles and pursue a new life of financial freedom in North America.

Bringing it home with Bacon

Kevin Bacon is trying to spread six degrees of safety by encouraging his followers to stay home.

Bacon took to his couch and his Twitter account to make a video saying who he's staying home to protect from the coronavirus outbreak. He suggests others do the same, and tag six people they name with the hashtag #IStayHomeFor.

"You know me, right? I'm technically only six degrees away from you," Bacon says in his video. "The contact you make with someone, and the contact they make with some-

one else, that may be what makes somebody's mom, or wife, or grandpa, sick."

He says he's staying home for, among others, his wife, actress Kyra Sedgewick.

"Since we're all connected by various degrees—trust me I know—we can work together to stay home and spread the word," Bacon says.

Eurovision lost

The Eurovision Song Contest has been canceled due to concerns over the coronavirus outbreak.

The organizers of the event that was to have been staged in the Dutch port city of Rotterdam in May announced the decision Wednesday "with deep regret" blaming "uncertainty created by the spread" of the virus and restrictions imposed by governments across Europe.

Organizers said the contest that pits performers and songs representing countries from around Europe and further afield against one another has been broadcast for 64 years without interruption "and we, like the millions of fans around the world, are extremely saddened that it cannot take place in May."

Dutch singer Duncan Laurence won last year's contest, earning the Netherlands the right to stage this year's event.

The European Broadcasting Union says it will continue talks with Dutch host broadcasters and Rotterdam authorities about hosting of the contest in 2021.

Weinstein moved to state prison day before 68th birthday

NEW YORK (AP)—Harvey Weinstein was transferred to a state prison in New York on Wednesday as he begins to serve a 23-year sentence for rape and sexual assault in his landmark #MeToo case.

The disgraced film mogul, who will turn 68 on Thursday, is locked up at the maximum security Wende Correctional Facility near Buffalo, according to state prison officials.

He is known behind bars as inmate No. 20B0584.

The prison, six hours by car from Manhattan, is likely just a temporary stop for Weinstein. While he's there, he'll be evaluated to determine which state prison facility meets his security, medical, mental health and other needs.

Weinstein's spokesman called the move "harsh."

Weinstein, convicted Feb. 24 and sentenced last week, had been splitting time between New York City's notorious Rikers Island jail complex and a Manhattan hospital.

Weinstein left court in an ambulance after the guilty verdict and detoured to Bellevue Hospital, complaining of chest pains and high blood pressure. He later had

a stent inserted to unblock an artery. After his sentencing, he returned with more chest pains.

Weinstein, the Oscar-winning producer of "Shakespeare in Love," was convicted of raping an aspiring actress in 2013 and forcibly performing oral sex on a TV and film production assistant in 2006. His lawyers have said they'll appeal.

Book sales fall as impact of coronavirus increases

NEW YORK (AP)—The number of physical books sold dropped 10 percent from the previous week, the latest sign of the effect of the coronavirus on the publishing industry.

NPD BookScan, which tracks around 85 percent of physical sales, reported big

drops in children's fiction and adult nonfiction books. The biggest gains were in nonfiction books for kids, notably workbooks purchased by parents whose children are now home from schools that have been closed.

The BookScan numbers

were released at a time when tours were being called and some of the country's top independent sellers, among them Powell's Books in Portland, Oregon, and the Tattered Cover in Denver, were laying off employees. Barnes & Noble has been cutting back its

hours and closing some stores, but otherwise is reporting "relatively strong sales considering the situation, both in our stores and online, especially of kid's books and fiction, including notably home study aids," according to a statement Wednesday.

Man leaves wife, daughters at curb after birthday dinner

DEAR ABBY: I coordinated and paid for a 70th birthday party for my terminally ill husband. Fourteen people were invited, and seven of them were related to my only sister, "Carla."

During the dinner, her husband was rude to the waitress and at the end of the party was screaming and yelling at Carla over the valet parking ticket. As they left the restaurant, he shoved her. He then got in their car and left my sister and her stepdaughters (from a previous marriage) standing there. They had to order a rideshare to get home.

I texted her later to be sure she and the girls had arrived safely. She said yes and told me she would talk to me the next day. When I didn't hear from her, I followed up. The next time we talked, she acted like nothing had happened! When I pursued the discussion and asked what prompted his strange behavior, she said, "I don't know what to tell you." I said, "You don't know?" and she replied, "I didn't say that. I said I don't know what to tell YOU."

After a lengthy discussion, I told her that unless we had some assurance that the incident wouldn't be repeated, we didn't want to see her husband again. She said it wouldn't be a problem. I have invited her to numerous family events, and she comes solo, but now she is blaming me for "tearing the family apart." What can I do now, if anything?

IN A MESS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR IN A MESS: Your sister is apparently married

to an abuser with a short fuse and has resigned herself to it. She has my sympathy, but she should not blame you for any of it. She could really use some help from a support group for abused partners, because things will not get better. If you prefer not to see her horror of a husband, stand your ground and do not allow yourself to be guilted or coerced into it. He owes all of you an apology.

DEAR ABBY: I am engaged to a wonderful, sweet, hard-working 30-year-old man. We get along well and make each other happy. The trouble is how he comes across to others. He is so eager to be friends that he opens up much too quickly, revealing and venting about things like his work problems. It makes people uncomfortable.

He has been called out on it several times by various people (some even straight-up called him "creepy"), and he will stop for a while. But he falls into the same pattern the next time he meets somebody new. This whole thing is made worse by his anxiety; when someone calls him out on this behavior, he experiences crippling panic attacks. They cause him to apologize profusely, which only exacerbates the problem.

He refuses to seek therapy or treatment for his anxiety. I am at a loss about how to help him, other than listen to his troubles and offer support when I can. What should I do?

CHALLENGED FIANCEE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR FIANCEE: Your fiance may be a great guy, but unless you want to spend your life with a partner who refuses to get help for his emotional problems and doesn't seem to learn from his mistakes, it may be time to step back and reevaluate this relationship. Much as you would like to, you can't fix what's wrong with him. Only he can do that. If you marry him, the chances are you will wind up as socially isolated as he is. What a shame.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

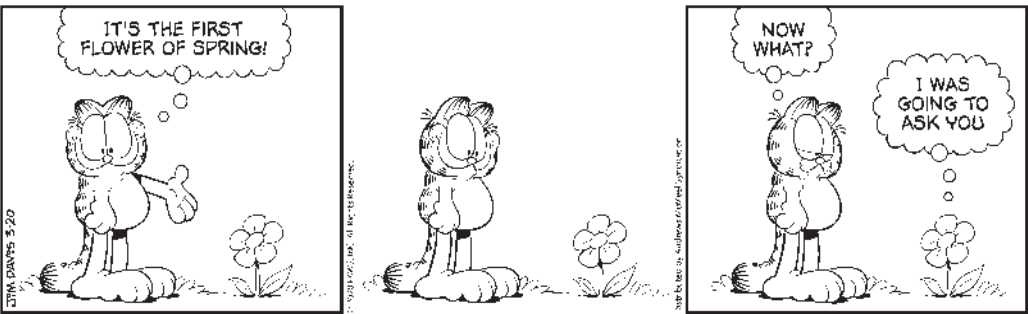
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



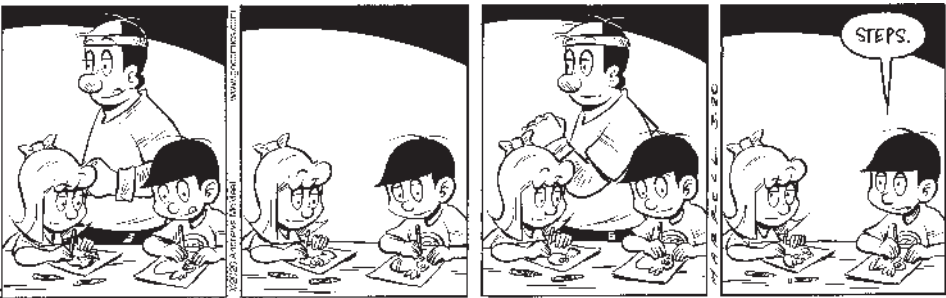
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Feedbag
4 Rival
8 Bigwigs
12 Bedazzle
13 Ship
14 Experts
15 "Tsk!"
17 Schleps
18 Deli
19 Green
21 Whatever
22 Gift
26 — Rica
29 "Mayberry
30 LAPD
31 Exploits
32 Nemesis
33 "I cannot
34 Ga.
35 Passing
36 Villain's
37 Open to
39 British

DOWN

40 Feathery
41 Of a
45 Delhi
48 Always
50 Pleased
51 Rim
52 Earl
53 Fork
54 Some
55 Tel.
3 Actress
4 Goddess
5 "Rescue
6 Shriver of
7 Artist
8 Bravery
9 Post-op
10 Wooden
11 Snake's
16 Sings like
20 Massa-
23 Harvard
24 Mayberry
25 Modern
26 Sleeve
27 Norway's
28 Burn
29 Scepter
32 Pita
33 Tennis
35 "Alice"
36 Feeds
38 Tolerate
39 Slow
42 Head, to
43 Pinnacle
44 Aspiring
45 Pvt.'s
46 Foreman
47 Scooted
49 Praise in

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ruby Rose, 34; Holly Hunter, 62; Spike Lee, 63; William Hurt, 70.

Happy Birthday: Snap decisions will lead to regret. Focus on a long-term plan that will check off all the boxes on your wish list. If you carefully study each situation you face, you will realize that you have more control than you realize. Spend your time organizing and preparing. Set your priorities straight, and don't settle for less than what you want. Your numbers are 2, 14, 22, 28, 34, 36, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Break down the cost and time required to get what you want. Patience will be necessary if you're going to achieve peace of mind and end up in a strong position emotionally and financially. Go over your options carefully. 4 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stick to your plan in order to make things happen. Refuse to let emotional issues cloud your vision or stand between you and your success. Be more aggressive, and take advantage of situations promptly. Good things will come your way. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Reject temptation and unrealistic offers. Avoid anyone who uses emotional blackmail, deceit or unfair tactics to push you in a direction you shouldn't go. Know when to say no and move on. Don't be afraid to do things by yourself. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do things your way, make a change to the way you live and achieve peace of mind. Things are looking up, and the time is right to follow your heart. Put greater emphasis on love, romance and

building a future that promises happiness. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Evaluate your current financial situation. Make adjustments that will help you budget for what's important to you. Stop letting your generosity leave you without money, when you should be investing in your future and reaching your ultimate goal. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make personal or physical changes that will draw attention and help you get others to support your ideas and pursuits. A connection with someone who stimulates your mind and brings out the best in you will help you reach your goal. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Share responsibilities, but don't let someone leave everything up to you. Show appreciation as well as contempt. Be fair, and demand the same in return. Stand up for your rights, and don't back down. Do whatever will bring you joy. 4 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Align yourself with people who are inspirational, dedicated and truthful. Travel and communication will lead to a lucrative endeavor. Deal with an emotional situation fairly and with an open mind. A day trip or chance meeting will turn into a worthwhile experience. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do something that will help you clear your head. Avoid people who mess with your mind or tempt you with offers that aren't in your best interest. Don't share your opinion if you want to avoid interference and opposition. 3 stars

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Know enough to back away if someone tries to pressure you. Acting in haste will end up being costly. Slow down, go over every detail and say no to anything you don't feel comfortable doing. Pay more attention to someone you love. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Avoid emotional situations and manipulative people. Make personal adjustments geared toward achieving happiness and success. Have the strength to do your own thing. Boost your confidence, and it will encourage you to reach your goal. Stand your ground, and you'll gain respect. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Damage control will be required to control a secret that's leaked. You can turn a negative into a positive if you are fair and accommodate everyone involved. A humanitarian approach will win the confidence of the people who count. 3 stars

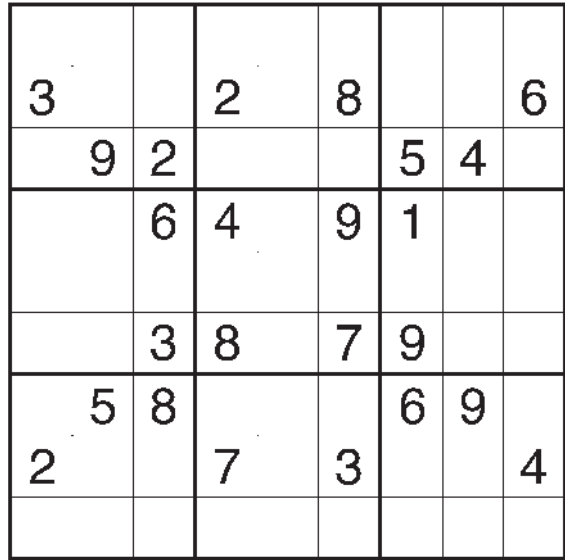
Birthday Baby: You are compassionate, helpful and relentless. You are objective and patient.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



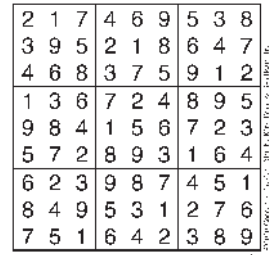
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/20

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Not Truly Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BOOMING SUBURBS

Solution: 10 letters

C Y C D N A L P R O P E R T Y
M O T A L A R I H O T E L E P
S O N I P I S E M O H A T G R
D E N D C I U W V P E U L A V
R M X E O P T B A O R L T N R
O M O A Y O L A T L I O E A E
L P B D T T H A L I A O V M S
D R N U E N I R C T P H D E I
N O E T S L A N O E C I T D
A F E N O I R P U B R S S A E
L I M R W E N E U M H S T V N
E T P T S O C E F C M G R O T
A V L U R B A N S I C O I N O
S N O I T C U R T S N O C E W
E H Y M R E N T N A N E T R N

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3/20

Build, Business, Capital, City, Community, Condo, Construction, Cost, District, Employ, Home, Hotel, House, Improve, Landlord, Laws, Lease, Manage, Model, Money, Move, Neighborhood, Occupant, Owner, Place, Plan, Polite, Price, Profit, Property, Rate, Refine, Renovate, Rent, Repair, Resident, School, Tailor, Taxes, Tenant, Town, Urban, Value, Vote

Yesterday's Answer: Red Cross

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6483.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

MLB could skip draft; service time big issue



NEW YORK

(AP)—Major

League Baseball is considering skipping its amateur draft this year and putting off the next international signing period as a way to preserve cash while games are affected by the new coronavirus, people familiar with the discussions told The Associated Press.

Talks between management and the players' association are ongoing and include the contentious issue of major league service time, which determines eligibility for free agency and salary arbitration. MLB has proposed crediting full service for 130 games or more and proportional service for a shorter season, the people said on condition of anonymity because those details have not been made public.

The union has taken the position that a full season of service should be credited even if no games are played, one of the people said.

Scheduling has been left open since there is no way to



A gate at the Chicago Cubs practice facility at Sloan Park in Mesa, Ariz., is closed and locked Monday, March 16, 2020. The remainder of spring training baseball games have been canceled due to the coronavirus.

determine when the season could start.

Opening day has been pushed back from March 26 to mid-May at the earli-

est, and both sides are committed to playing as many games as possible.

Some radical solutions, such as more doublehead-

ers and playing deep into autumn by using enclosed stadiums and warm-weather sites, have not been thoroughly discussed yet.

With the prospect of expected cash not coming in from tickets, broadcast and sponsorship contracts, teams have told the commissioner's office they are fearful they may have to lay off administrative staff. Signing bonuses for amateur players total about \$400 million annually.

Baseball moved the first round of the draft to Omaha, Nebraska, ahead of the College World Series in June, but the CWS was canceled last week. The international signing period runs from July 2 to June 15.

While bonus rules for the draft and international players are part of the collective bargaining agreement, management could attempt to cite the national emergency as reason to make unilateral changes. With a Republican administration in Washington, the union would have a difficult path with a legal challenge before the National Labor Relations Board.

The sides also are discussing whether MLB would advance money to play-

ers, who get paid only during the regular season. The Uniform Player's Contract has a provision allowing the baseball commissioner to suspend the deal during any national emergency when Major League Baseball is not played.

How much money would be advanced and which players the money would go to are also a part of the negotiation. Advances could go to the entire 40-man roster or a subset.

Also under discussion is the union's desire to have players receive allowance money, even if they have returned home from spring training.

Among the other issues are adjusting salaries, luxury tax rules, revenue sharing and performance bonuses thresholds in the event of a season of fewer than 162 games, and relaxing schedule and roster rules.

Getting money to players with minor league contracts, who are not covered by the union, is likely to be decided later by MLB.

SWITZERLAND—FIFA confirmed the postponement of the new Club World Cup on Wednesday as it pledged to take a series of "exceptional measures" to protect football in the face of the coronavirus crisis, including a possible support fund for financially stricken clubs and associations.

World football's governing body accepted it would not play the new 24-team Club World Cup in June and July of 2021 after it was announced on Tuesday that the European Championship and Copa America would both be moved to that period.

The two tournaments were

Club World Cup pushed back, FIFA pledges measures vs virus

postponed by 12 months due to the coronavirus pandemic, and FIFA president Gianni Infantino had already said in advance of a meeting with the heads of the six continental ruling bodies on Wednesday that he would propose putting back the Club World Cup to later in 2021, or even to 2022 or 2023.

In the end, a statement released by FIFA simply said new dates for the highly lucrative tournament would be decided "at a later stage".

FIFA were seemingly left with little choice after Alek-

sander Ceferin, the president of the European game's governing body UEFA, said he had told Infantino on Tuesday "that the Club World Cup... cannot happen" in 2021 having postponed the Euro by a year. Ceferin did not indicate there was any offer of a compromise.

Ceferin has been critical of Infantino's Club World Cup plans, and UEFA and South American governing body CONMEBOL agreed together to put their continental competitions back by a year,

having recently signed a co-operation agreement.

Meanwhile, FIFA announced the creation of a working group to deal with the consequences of the pandemic, including on players' contracts and transfers and to deal with the economic impact on the game.

"This exceptional situation requires exceptional measures and decisions. This crisis impacts the entire world and that is why solutions need to take into account the interests of all stakeholders around the

world," said Infantino.

On Tuesday, as well as postponing Euro 2020 by a year, UEFA committed to finishing the European club season by the end of June but accepted that a further review will be required—it may be impossible to finish the season by then if the ongoing health crisis does not ease.

That creates a potential headache with players' contracts often expiring on June 30. Transfer window dates may need to be altered too.

The sudden stop to the football season in much of the

world is also a serious concern for many clubs and leagues who already have financial worries and now risk going weeks and potentially months without collecting gate receipts and other revenues.

FIFA has cash reserves of around \$1.5 billion (1.37 billion euros) and said it would "analyze if a support fund at global level will be required and how in that case concrete support mechanisms should be defined".

The body is also pledging to donate \$10 million (9.1 million euros) to the World Health Organization's COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund.



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Jaguars dumping Foles in trade to Bears



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—The Jacksonville Jaguars are trying to mitigate one of the costliest mistakes in franchise history. The Chicago Bears could benefit from the purge.

The Jaguars agreed Wednesday to trade quarterback Nick Foles to the Bears for a compensatory fourth-round draft pick, according to a person familiar with the transaction. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade was not yet official.

The Jaguars are dumping Foles a little more than a year after giving the 2018 Super Bowl MVP a four-year, \$88 million contract that included a whopping \$50.125 million guaranteed.

The Bears are getting a veteran starter to compete with Mitchell Trubisky, who struggled in his third season. They are expected to rework Foles' contract, which has three years remaining.

Foles is due to make \$15.125 million in 2020 and would have counted \$21.837 million against Jacksonville's salary cap. Dealing him will still be costly for the Jaguars—they will take on \$18.75 million in dead money this fall -- but it will free up about \$35 million over the next two years. Jacksonville saves a little more than \$3 million in 2020 by trading him.

The Jaguars are in full rebuild mode after their 10th losing season in the last 12 years. Last March, owner Shad Khan, general manager Dave Caldwell and coach Doug Marrone raved about Foles and what it meant to finally have a franchise quarterback after a decades-long search that saw Jacksonville try Byron Leftwich, David Garrard, Blaine Gabbert, Chad Henne and Blake Bortles.

But the 31-year-old Foles ended up being the latest bust in Jacksonville. He broke his left collarbone early in the season opener, missed the next eight games and then got benched in his third game back.

Rookie Gardner Minshew, a sixth-round draft pick from Washington State, played well enough in Foles' absence to make Caldwell and Marrone believe he's got more upside



AP
In this Nov. 1, 2019 file photo, quarterback Nick Foles throws during a NFL training session of the Jacksonville Jaguars at the Allianz Park in London.

joining the Detroit Lions.

And one of the top players on Detroit's current roster is apparently ready to leave.

The Lions agreed to a two-year, \$8 million deal with defensive tackle Danny Shelton. Agent Drew Rosenhaus confirmed that deal Wednesday. Shelton started 14 games last season for New England.

The Patriots also agreed to trade safety Duron Harmon to the Lions. Both teams announced the deal, but did not announce additional terms. The trade is pending a physical.

ESPN, citing an unidentified source, reported Wednesday night that cornerback Desmond Trufant was signing a two-year deal with the Lions. Darius Slay, who is currently Detroit's top player at that position, tweeted the following in response to that reported deal.

In Tennessee, the Titans kept their starting offense together with only one exception before the start of free agency.

The defense will look very different.

The Titans traded five-time Pro Bowl defensive lineman Jurrell Casey to the Denver Broncos on Wednesday for a seventh-round draft pick, two people confirmed to The Associated Press. That came a day after the Titans agreed to terms with defensive end Vic Beasley Jr. on a one-year deal to boost their outside pass rush.

Trading away Casey was the biggest surprise. He was a six-time team captain and the longest-tenured player drafted by Tennessee. Casey was a third-round pick out of Southern Cal in 2011.

The people familiar with the trade spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because trades and other deals cannot be final without physicals or signed paperwork. The NFL has barred travel to team facilities by free agents and also has banned team personnel from traveling to meet with players as a safeguard against the new coronavirus.

moving forward. It also made Foles expendable.

Jacksonville had been willing to keep Foles as a high-priced backup. But a wild carousel of QB moves to open free agency—Philip Rivers to Indianapolis, Tom Brady reportedly to Tampa Bay and Teddy Bridgewater to Carolina—created a market for Foles.

Now, he heads to the Windy City.

Bears general manager Ryan Pace has made it clear the team is committed to Trubisky despite his regression in 2019. Pace largely tied his reputation to Trubisky by trading up a spot with San Francisco to draft him with the No. 2 overall pick in 2017, ahead of Kansas City's Pat-

rick Mahomes and Houston's Deshaun Watson. While Mahomes and Watson have emerged as two of the best quarterbacks in the league, Trubisky has mixed some promising flashes with poor decisions and even worse throws.

The Bears were hoping he would take a big step forward last season—his second in coach Matt Nagy's system—but that did not happen. His yards (3,138), completion rate (63.2%), touchdowns (17) and rating (83) all dropped from the previous year.

Foles, meanwhile, completed 77 of 117 passes for 736 yards with three touchdowns and two interceptions in four games last season. He

also ran four times for 23 yards and lost two fumbles.

He was the most coveted free-agent quarterback on the market in 2019 after leading Philadelphia to four playoff victories over two seasons, including the franchise's first NFL title since 1960. He earned 2018 Super Bowl MVP honors and a season later made himself the league's top QB commodity.

Jacksonville will turn to Minshew for the foreseeable future. Joshua Dobbs will serve as Jacksonville's backup. The Jags traded a fifth-round pick to Pittsburgh last September for Dobbs.

Meanwhile, add a couple more names to the parade of ex-Patriots

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—The Tampa Bay Buccaneers enter free agency with expectations of signing Tom Brady and bolstering a defense that will be one of the keys to helping the six-time Super Bowl champion quarterback be successful with his new team.

There's been no official announcement on Brady joining the Bucs after 20 seasons with the New England Patriots. However, there's already an increased demand for tickets.

Tampa Bay ranked 30th among 32 teams in home attendance, averaging 51,898 per game last season.

Within hours of reports of the team closing in on a deal with Brady, the website selling

Brady deal could make Bucs relevant; ticket demand spikes

season passes for 2020 showed more than 2,400 people in a queue waiting for an opportunity to make purchases.

Brady ended his historic run in New England, announcing on social media Tuesday that he would become a free agent for the first time in his career.

Armed with plenty of salary cap space, a roster featuring a pair of 1,000-yard receivers and a coach with a proven track record of working with high-profile quarterbacks, the Bucs took a shot at making themselves relevant for the first time in more than a decade.

The Bucs went 7-9 last season and missed the play-

offs for the 12th straight year, the second-longest drought in the league behind the Cleveland Browns. They haven't won a postseason game since their 2002 Super Bowl championship run.

Landing Brady not only figures to fill empty seats at Raymond James Stadium and make the Bucs a playoff contender right away, but also raises the prospect of Tampa Bay becoming the first team to win a Super Bowl in the host city's stadium.

Next season's NFL title game is in Tampa.

Brady won 17 division titles and appeared in nine

Super Bowls—winning six—with the Patriots. He's a four-time Super Bowl MVP, 14-time Pro Bowl selection and three-time regular season MVP who has made 41 postseason starts.

The Bucs have played 15 playoff games in their 44-season history, none since 2007.

In signing Brady, Tampa Bay also officially moved on from Jameis Winston, who became a free agent Wednesday after five seasons as the team's quarterback.

Patriots cut costs as free agents depart

A day after Brady announced he

was leaving New England, the Patriots spent the first day of free agency in cost-cutting mode.

Finding a new quarterback will be the top priority for coach Bill Belichick as he begins the task of reconstructing his roster in the post-Brady era. But other departures have left him with holes to plug on defense.

On Wednesday, safety Duron Harmon was traded to the Lions, defensive tackle Danny Shelton also landed in Detroit on a two-year, \$8 million deal, and offensive lineman Ted Karras agreed to a one-year, \$4 million deal with the Dolphins. Linebacker Elandon Roberts is also expected to

sign with the Dolphins.

That's in addition to this week's departures of linebacker Kyle Van Noy, who agreed to a four-year, \$51 million deal with Dolphins, and linebacker Jamie Collins, who's joining former teammates in Detroit after agreeing to a three-year, \$30 million deal.

The moves left the Patriots about \$13 million under the salary cap.

In Collins, Van Noy and Shelton, New England loses three of its top performers from a unit that led the league in total defense in 2019, allowing 272 yards per game. The Patriots gave up 20 points per game, third fewest in the NFL.

Tension grows over Tokyo Olympics uncertainty

TOKYO (AP)—The Olympic flame from Greece is set to arrive in Japan even as the opening of the Tokyo Games in four months is in doubt with more voices suggesting the event should be postponed or canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The flame touches down Friday aboard a white aircraft painted with the inscription “Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay” along its side, and “Hope Lights Our Way” stenciled near the tail section.

Everything about the arrival ceremony at the Matsushima air base in northern Japan will be subdued. The flame is to be greeted by a few dignitaries, saluted by a flyover from an aerial acrobatic team—if weather permits—and then used to ignite a cauldron.

The burning vessel will be displayed in three northern prefectures before the official relay begins on March 26 from Fukushima prefecture, which was devastated nine years ago by an earthquake, tsunami and the meltdown of three nuclear reactors.

Thousands of people from the region are still in temporary housing and life has not returned to normal for many. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hopes to use the Olympics to crown his run as Japan’s longest serving premier, and many suggest he may not be around if the games are put off and the economy slumps.

Taro Aso, the Japanese finance minister and former prime minister, characterized Tokyo’s Games as the



“cursed Olympics” speaking on Wednesday in a parliamentary committee. Aso was born in 1940, the year Tokyo was to hold its first Olympics, which were called off ahead of World War II.



“This isn’t a phrase that the press could like to hear, but it’s true,” said Aso, who was a member of Japan’s shooting team at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal.

Aso pointed out that even as the situation in Japan and Asia improves, it’s worse globally.

“We certainly hope to have a situation where everyone can at least come to Japan feeling safe and happy,” Aso said. “But the question is how we do that. It is something that Japan alone

cannot achieve, and I don’t have an answer to this.”

Getting the flame to Japan represents a small victory for the International Olympic Committee and local organizers, who maintain the Olympics will open as scheduled on July 24 and be followed by the Paralympics on Aug. 25.

Even if they don’t, the burning flame could be used as a symbol—particularly if the games are eventually delayed—and a rallying point for the Japanese public.

In a conference call on Wednesday, IOC President Thomas Bach got support for holding the course, but is also getting push back from athletes who can’t train, are confused about the qualification process,

and worry about their health. Critics are also complaining about the unfairness of qualifying, which might give some

athletes advantages over others.

An IOC member, four-time Olympic ice hockey gold medalist Hayley Wickenheiser has

Ground crews of Japanese airlines wave to the special “Tokyo 2020 Go” aircraft that will transport the Olympic Flame to Japan after the Torch Handover Ceremony in Greece, on its departure at Haneda International Airport in Tokyo Wednesday, March 18.

broken publicly with Bach.

“I think the IOC insisting this will move ahead, with such conviction, is insensitive and irresponsible given the state of humanity,” said Wickenheiser, who is training to be a physician.

“Keep them safe. Call it off,” Matthew Pinsent, a four-time Olympic gold-medal rower and former IOC member, said on Twitter.

The four-month torch relay could be fraught with problems, particularly for sponsors Coca-Cola and Toyota, which have invested millions for the publicity. The torch relay tradition dates from Adolph Hitler’s 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

JP Hero Run postponed

Following Gov. Ralph DLG Torres’ public health emergency declaration and with the latest guidance from the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., the Tan Siu Lin Foundation will postpone, until further notice, the JP Hero Run, originally scheduled for March 28.

“It saddens us to announce the run’s postponement, but we all have to do our part to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The JP Hero Run is important to us, but in this difficult situation, our highest priority is the health and

safety of our team, volunteers, participants and the community,” TSLF executive director Merlie Tolentino said.

With a new date for the event still uncertain given the current global crisis, the TSL Foundation, the philanthropic arm of TanHoldings, will issue refunds to registered participants.

“We are monitoring the situation closely and will set a new date for the JP Hero Run when it is safe to do so. We thank our team, volunteers, partners, and participants for

their continued support. We hope to see everyone again later in the year in good spirits and in good health.

For now, we encourage everyone to stay at home and follow safety measures set by our government,” organizer and TanHoldings community relations director Carline Sablan said.

JP Hero Run updates will be released later through email, media outlets, and TSLF’s social media pages. For any questions, call 234-0561, extension 100. (PR)



JIM

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Wu (6:17:25); 20 to 29’s Taketoshi Oe (3:11:58); 30 to 39’s Seungho Lee (4:35:58) and Dianne Marie Sapida (3:38:09); 50 to 59’s Hiroyuki Nishimura (3:32:56) and Eiko Mizuna (5:54:02); and over 60’s Chang Whan Jang

(4:56:06) and Etsuko Hirayama (5:20:57).

In the half marathon, six runners (age group winners) finished the course in less than two hours—Masahiro Washizu (1:48:29), Yuji Harada (1:58:25), Jim Bryan Damatan (1:50:40), Sarah Vander Wal (1:59:57), Billy Kay Navarrete (1:46:46), and Leith Poole (1:49:43).

Other age group champions in the half marathon were U15’s Li Zhu (2:01:59) and Tiana Cabrera (2:05:52), 16 to 19’s Enyang Ji (2:14:44) and Weixiu Yang (2:15:37), 30 to 39’s Astrid Poole (2:02:43), 40 to 49’s Dorris Abagatnan (2:00:15), 50 to 59’s Kimberlee Church (3:00:51), and over 60’s Elizabeth Kohnen (2:15:26).

PACIFIC

From Page 24

ahead, 43-34, stepped up in the second, however Viray, Mintac, and De Dios teamed up and denied IT&E’s bid to enter the win column.

Meanwhile, Connie’s BBQ made crucial free throws in the fourth period to eke out the 3-point win over 6JMS/Seabridge.

Connie’s BBQ’s last 7 points in the close match all came from the foul line with Dan Mateo delivering four free throws, Andrew Ashburn making two, and Ron Rodriguez adding one.

Besides his pair of chari-

ties, Ashburn also knocked in two field goals in the fourth quarter, while Mateo scored 7 points to help Connie’s BBQ top 6JMS/Seabridge, which clung to a 60-59 lead after the third and eventually lost it in the final frame.

Ashburn top-scored for Connie’s BBQ with his 24 points, while Freddie Pelisamen had the same output in a losing effort for 6JMS/Seabridge.

First Game

Connie’s BBQ 76—Ashburn 24, Esmores 11, Mateo 10, Sienna 8, Dayao 4, Danao 3, Hipolito 2, Hernandez 2, Joe 2.

6JMS/Seabridge 73—Pelisamen 24, Mangali 17, Quan 11, Gaviola 8, Mendiola 4, Ritual 3, Tekopua 2, Brennan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-10, 43-36, 59-60, 76-73.

Second Game

Pacific Hardware 78—Viray 28, Mintac 20, De Dios 15, Almario 6, Samaniego 4, Mungcal 4.

IT&E 72—De Guzman 21, S. Deleon Guerrero 20, Pamintuan 5, L. Deleon Guerrero 5, O. Santos 4, B. Santos 3, Aglipay 2, Madreo 2, Palacios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-14, 43-34, 60-50, 78-72.

KANOA

From Page 24

held on to remain undefeated in five games.

MP United, with the loss, still has only one win to show this season.

In the other boys U16 division match, TanHoldings got win No. 3 after downing Matansa, 4-1.

Kohtaro Goto led the victory after recording a hat trick. His goals came in succession late in the second half, as he scored in the 50th, 58th, and 60th minute. TanHoldings’ other goal came from Mark Joseph Roque, who found the back of the net in the 34th minute.

Matansa’s lone goal was courtesy of Carl Salas in the 27th minute and the team kept the upper hand in the first half before TanHoldings found its rhythm in the second to foil its foe’s bid for an upset.

GIRLS U17 DIVISION TanHoldings 11, Kanoa 3

TanHoldings kept its perfect record following a lopsided win over Kanoa.

Jannah Casarino did most of the damage for TanHoldings as she fired seven goals, five of them came in the first half to lift their team to a 7-3 halftime lead.

Kaithlyn Chavez, Stephanie Flores, Allyssya Angeles, and Mary Joy Aniana chipped in one goal apiece in Tan-

Holdings’ crushing of Kanoa, which drew twin goals from Sharmaine Francisco and one from Kristelle Itaas.

Southern United 2, MP United 0

In the other match in the division, Southern United shut down MP United.

Lillian Podziewski and Keisha Deleon Guerrero made one goal apiece for Southern United, which earned its third win in five games.

2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League

TEAM STANDINGS (As of March 18, 2020)

BOYS U16 DIVISION

| CLUBS | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|-------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| Kanoa | 5 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 6 | 19 | 15 |
| TanHoldings | 3 | 0 | 2 | 16 | 15 | 1 | 9 |
| MP United | 1 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 13 | -5 | 4 |
| Matansa | 0 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 22 | -15 | 1 |

GIRLS U17 DIVISION

| CLUBS | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|-----------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| TanHoldings | 4 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 7 | 18 | 12 |
| Southern United | 3 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 9 |
| MP United | 1 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 15 | -7 | 3 |
| Kanoa | 1 | 0 | 4 | 17 | 28 | -11 | 3 |



MLB could skip draft; service time big issue

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24 FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jim sets new 10K record



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Veteran runner Noriko Jim marked a new CNMI record in 10K after submitting 43:50 in last Saturday's Saipan Marathon.

The 49-year-old broke the 46:09 record Mamiko Berger established on Aug. 3, 2010 during the Micronesian Games in Koror, Palau. Jim, besides setting the new Commonwealth mark, finished second overall in the 10K event last weekend, placing behind South Korea's Yunmi Lee (42:54) and beating fellow Saipan runners Kaithlyn Chavez (49:35) and Ayano Braxton (50:26) and Yoon Young Kang (48:29), and Jun Kyung Choi (49:44), also from South Korea.

Meanwhile, Charlie Sendin posted the fastest time among the top finishers in the age group competition in the 10K race, which started and ended at the American Memorial Park with a turnaround point across the former Saipan Mayor's Office in Beach Road.

Sendin ruled the men's 30

Noriko Jim heads back to the American Memorial Park via Beach Road to complete the 10K event in last Saturday's Saipan Marathon.



to 39 age group after clocking in at 43:15, while South Korea's Heejin Kim won in the women's division, as she logged 56:44.

Joining Sendin and Kim on the list of top finishers in the various age groups were U15's Yutian Luo (49:01) and Nathannette Blas (51:32); 16 to 19's Sebastien Manabat (45:33) and Anika Snyder (50:29); 20 to 29's Jireh Yobech (45:57) and Mina Choi (57:23); 40 to 49's Michiteru Mita (49:09) and Xinmei Tang Yarbrough (54:36); 50 to 59's Jun Hashimoto (44:54) and Liz Church (1:05:11); and over 60's Steven Pixley (53:13) and Kozue Yamada (1:13:01).

Meanwhile, Japan's Yasushi Yoneta had the fastest time among the age group winners in the marathon course after recording 2:52:55. He was the lone age group (40 to 49) champion to break the three-hour barrier.

Other age group winners were 16 to 19's Jianan He (5:16:56) and Vivian Linzhi

See JIM on Page 23

Pacific Hardware, Connie's BBQ win



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pacific Hardware's Mac Mintac pulls up for a corner jumper against Napa's Kelvin Fitial during an earlier game in the One Pacific caging at the Civic Center Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Connie's BBQ and Pacific Hardware showed poise in the homestretch to escape their respective opponents in the One Pacific Promotional Basketball League 2020 last week at the Civic Center Court.



Connie BBQ outclassed 6JMS/Seabridge in the curtain-raiser last March 12, 76-73, while Pacific Hardware downed IT&E in the second match last Friday, 78-72.

Ahead by twin digits after the third period, 60-50, Pacific Hardware withstood IT&E's late rally in the fourth to take the 6-point win.

Mac Mintac scored 7 of his 20 points in the fourth canto to help Pacific Hardware foil IT&E's comeback bid, while Ken Viray and Marlon De Dios hit timely baskets for the winning squad in the final canto.

Viray led all scorers with his 28 points, while De Dios also finished in twin digits with 15.

Jaymark De Guzman paced IT&E with his 21 points, while Shane Deleon Guerrero added 20.

IT&E played catch up right at the get-go as only De Guzman consistently hit his shots early on. Deleon Guerrero, who was held to one field goal in the entire first half that ended with Pacific Hardware still

See PACIFIC on Page 23



Kanoa, TanHoldings on a roll

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club and TanHoldings Football Club extended their streak in the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League after prevailing in last Saturday's matches at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



TanHoldings Football Club's Kaithlyn Chavez, left, dribbles in front of Southern United's Nathannette Blas during their girls U16 game in the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League early this month at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

in Koblerville.

In the first boys U16 game, Kanoa stretched its winning run to five after nosing out MP United, 2-1.

Sean Gil and Markus Toves scored the two goals for Kanoa with the latter delivering the insurance in the 52nd minute. Earlier in the 16th minute, Gil put Kanoa on the board and they made it a 2-0 advantage after Toves' shot in the second half.

MP United then threatened to launch a late rally when Andrew Chung's goal in the 60th minute moved the team within one. However, Kanoa

See KANOA on Page 23